



# The Stafford Newsletter



*Spring Cleanup-April 16*

Volume 32, Issue 2

Circulation 7,010

April 2011

## Lack of Challengers Cancels City Election

### **SMSD TRUSTEE & BOND ELECTIONS SET**

A City election to choose the Mayor and three councilmembers, whose two-year terms will be expiring later this year, was called. Applications were taken beginning on February 14. Incumbents Mayor Leonard Scarcella, Councilwoman Felecia Evans-Smith, Councilman Wen Guerra and Councilman Fred Woolridge all filed for reelection. The final day for any challengers to file was March 21. No one chose to oppose the incumbents. On the April 6 City Council meeting agenda is an ordinance canceling the election and declaring the incumbents reelected.

Although there will be no City election on Saturday, May 14, there still will be plenty of important votes to cast at City Hall on that day.

The Stafford Municipal School District has set that date for the

election of two Board Trustees. Currently holding those positions are Cindy Hoelscher and Rodney Butler. Challenging for one of the seats is newcomer Arturo Jackson.

Stafford voters also will be presented with ballots for two bond elections. One of those is SMSD's four proposition bond election totaling \$49.9 million. Additionally, there will be a water and sewer bond election called by the Fort Bend County W.C.&I.D. No. 2 for \$31.9 million.

These elections are expected to generate significant interest and a high voter turnout for May balloting.

You are encouraged to become knowledgeable about the Trustee election at a Candidates' Forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters on Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m., at the Stafford Civic Center.

### **WATER DISPUTE NOW IN LEGISLATURE**

The battle for the City of Stafford to secure necessary water rights for our citizens and businesses well into the future has moved to the Texas Legislature and the negotiating table.

State Representative Ron Reynolds introduced House Bill 1798 in February, which would require Fort Bend County W.C.&I.D. No. 2 to obtain approval from our City Council on any major action proposed by the Water District, including bond elections and sales, annexations, tax and rate increases among others.

The District and the City of Missouri City have expressed outrage at the bill and vowed an all out assault to kill the legislation. When reminded that Stafford taxpayers pay \$4 out of

every \$5 of the District's obligations and deserve a voice in, and seat at the table for major District actions, officials of those two entities are clearly dismissive of the suggestion.

In an effort to reach a responsible compromise, negotiations between the three bodies began recently. Prospects for any reasonable resolution of the differences at this time are murky.

Stafford City Council is committed to take all appropriate actions to assure the securing of the needed water rights. This is despite, or in view of, the unconvincing assurances that the District is doing everything necessary to protect the water needs of our City.

# MAY ELECTION SCHEDULES

## EARLY VOTING

### at Stafford City Hall

2610 South Main, Stafford

Monday, May 2 – Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday, May 9 – Tuesday, May 10, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

### at Stafford MSD Administration Building

1625 Staffordshire, Stafford

Monday, May 2 – Friday, May 6, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday, May 9 – Tuesday, May 10, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

## ELECTION DAY VOTING

### at Stafford City Hall

2610 South Main, Stafford

Saturday, May 14, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

## CENSUS REVEALS POPULATION OF 17,693

The recently released numbers on the U.S. constitutionally mandated 2010 Census reflect that the population of the City of Stafford has grown to 17,693. This is an increase of 12.8% from the previous Census figure of 15,681. Interesting aspects are:

Whites comprise 22.4% - a decrease of 28.9%; Hispanics, 25.9% - an increase of 25.7%; African-Americans, 26.8% - an increase of 63.2%; Asians, 22.6% - an increase of 29.6%; and other, 2.3%.

With these new figures, the shift in racial makeup of the City is vivid.

## COUNCIL TAKES CONTROL OF CEMETERY

As a result of escalating, unsavory and illegal activities in the cemetery on Stafford Road, which have led to felony indictments and numerous investigations against perpetrators, City Council felt compelled to pass Resolution 04-11 on February 16 which provides for the City to take possession and control of the cemetery. A critical component of this action specifically mandated by State law is that there will be no more burials in the cemetery. Funeral homes in the area have been notified of its closure, and signs regarding this new status were posted at the cemetery.

In view of the desire of many to bury loved ones there, some individuals indicated that they would be working to create a non-profit corporation which would request that the City transfer authority over the cemetery to a responsible group that could then allow for burials. It has been more than two months since that meeting. As of yet, no substantive

proposals have been presented to the City.



The City will be fencing the grounds and installing signs about the rules related to visitations and placement of flowers and adornments on the gravesites. The City also will be responsible for maintaining and landscaping the cemetery.

In view of the interest of this matter to many, City Council will continue to keep you informed of any changes in this situation on the City's website.

# INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVITIES MOVE TO STAFFORD CENTRE



*Stafford Historical Society honored as Grand Marshal in 2010*

The entire Independence Day Celebration will take place at the Stafford Centre with its various activities. On Sunday, July 3, it will start with a parade and followed with carnival rides and games. A street dance and hay ride are scheduled later in the evening. On Monday, July 4, the Fort Bend Symphony will perform a Patriotic Concert. The festivities will end with the reinstated fireworks display that night.

## CITY POOL OPENS MEMORIAL WEEKEND

Despite many cities across the Nation closing swimming pools, the City of Stafford is proud to once again offer its outstanding Olympic size pool to our citizens.

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.

<b>Pool Schedule</b>	<b>Swim Lessons</b>	<b>Stafford Swim Team</b>
Saturday, May 28 - Monday, September 5; open weekends only from mid-August - September 5; 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.	Morning and evening; ages 4 and up. Sign up begins May 28. For information, call 281-499-5763 or 281-499-8783.	Mid-May - mid-July; early registration in April. For information, call Leanne Mazoch at 281-413-3093.



**Synchronized Swim Team in action**

### **CITY OFFICES CLOSED:**

Friday, April 22, in observance of Good Friday  
Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day

### **TREE LIMB PICKUP:**

Monday, June 6

### **STAFFORD CENTRE:**

Lorrie Morgan & Juice Newton, April 29  
Oyster Creek Rotary Fish Fry/Crawfish Festival, May 7  
Bon Ton Louisiana, May 14  
Fort Bend Symphony "Night at the Movies," May 22  
Marty Stuart, June 17



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

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## SPRING CLEANUP SET FOR APRIL 16



The City of Stafford will hold its much heralded annual City Wide Pride Spring Clean Up on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. – perfect timing for getting rid of heavy trash. A certified contractor for the shredding of sensitive paper documents will be stationed at City Hall for those in need of this service.

Heavy trash must be by the curb no later than 7 a.m. on Saturday where WCA Waste Corporation trucks will pick up. No paint, chemicals, batteries, normal household waste or car parts will be collected. Lumber, plywood, similar materials cut in four-foot lengths and tied in bundles will be picked up. Only refrigerators and freezers drained of coolant will be removed.

Rimless tires placed at the curb and separated from heavy trash will be picked up. Anyone desiring to dispose of a large number of tires must call 281-261-3941 for permission from the City of Stafford. Automobile batteries may be dropped off at Stafford Auto Supply at 2424 South Main.

Participants will receive t-shirts and supplies and will clean designated streets. Afterward, lunch will be served at City Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and trophies will be awarded. For complete information and a registration form, visit [www.cityofstafford.com](http://www.cityofstafford.com) or call 281-261-3941.

The City of Stafford would like to thank the many businesses that help sponsor this event.

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### Tune in AM 1160 during Emergencies

## STAFFORD RADIO STATION UPGRADED

In 2007, the City of Stafford established a radio station at AM 1160 as a means to inform motorists of conditions in the Stafford area. The station has been elevated to become one of the main sources of information for Stafford residents in an emergency situation, and it proved to be invaluable during Hurricane Ike.

Recently, a \$22,000 FEMA grant and \$5,500 City contribution allowed for a major upgrade of the Stafford AM radio station. The upgrade will take place this spring and bring the technology up-to-date so that information gets to citizens faster and more efficiently. The improved station should be up before the hurricane season begins on June 1.