



The Stafford Newsletter



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July 2011

All Activities Moving to the Stafford Centre, including Revived Fireworks

PLANS CONFIRMED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

With a theme of "A New Beginning," the City Council is moving the entire Independence Day celebration to the Stafford Centre. While the area around the Civic Center has served this purpose well for many years, it is now time to take full advantage of the most impressive and well-recognized Stafford Centre.

As in the past, there will be the parade, carnival rides, street dance and hay ride on Sunday, July 3, all beginning at 7 p.m. A patriotic concert at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 4, will feature the Fort Bend Symphony which will provide stirring and inspiring music of our heritage.

Immediately following the concert, a fireworks display – with significant caution to address potential hazards from the current drought – will

begin shortly after 9 p.m. It may be viewed from the Stafford Centre parking lot and other locations in the vicinity. All activities will be free to the public.

As usual, vendors' booths will be available with a variety of food and drink. Notice: No outside beverages will be allowed to be brought into the Festival Field area.

The parade will have an entirely new route and feature this year's Parade Marshal, Lawrence Vaccaro, Jr. (See related stories on pages 2-4.)

Stafford will be hosting its 36th consecutive annual event which was initiated with the Bicentennial in 1976.

We encourage all Staffordians to come, enjoy and participate in this outstanding program offered by the City to its citizens and their guests.



2010 Independence Day Parade

Keep Tuned to Stafford's Emergency Radio Station [AM 1160](#)

HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS

It is that time of year - - HURRICANE SEASON - - which runs from June 1 through November 30. Detailed information on how to plan, prepare and stay informed is available at City Hall and also on the City's website at www.cityofstafford.com.

Additionally, the City has revamped its emergency radio station [AM 1160](#). Everyone is encouraged to obtain a battery-powered AM radio that will allow residents to listen on this station to information and instructions dealing with emergencies that may occur in the City.



Long-Time City Official Recognized

LAWRENCE VACCARO, JR. CHOSEN AS PARADE MARSHAL

Lawrence Vaccaro, Jr. is a life-long resident of Stafford, married to his devoted wife of 41 years, Betty Ann. Together they reared three lovely daughters, Lacy, Lori and Lisa.

He has spent the past 31 years as an exceptional official of the City of Stafford, performing a myriad of tasks, in the capacities of Public Works Director, Tax Assessor/Collector, Building Official and Director of Municipal Services. In these roles, he has directed and guided numerable major projects for the City, including

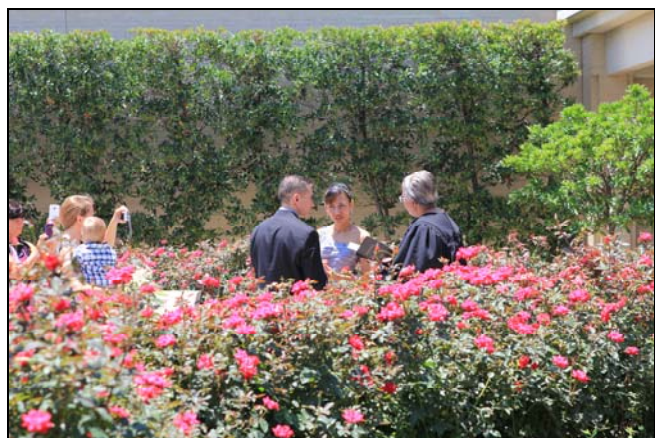


construction and/or renovation of the Stafford Centre, City Hall, Police Station, two Fire Stations, Municipal Court Building and four City Parks. Lawrence coordinated and oversaw a host of other important endeavors, including street and drainage projects, TxDOT's major restructurings of US 59 and US 90A and the outstanding landscaping of these major thoroughfares.

Lawrence is being honored for his outstanding commitment, dedication and sterling accomplishments for Stafford.

MEMORIAL GARDEN FAST BECOMING FEATURED SITE FOR WEDDINGS

Although not envisioned when this facility was being planned, many couples have become elated with the prospect of being married in the Margaret Havens Historical Memorial Garden. Judge Debra Champagne is now performing weddings in the Memorial Garden and has encouraged use of this location because of its extraordinary layout and the beautiful roses with their fragrant smell. The waterfall provides a wonderful backdrop for the couples' pictures. The scenic and alluring view impress the brides and grooms, as well as guests attending the ceremonies.



Major Events Coming to the Stafford Centre in Summer/Fall, 2011

July 15, Righteous Brother's Bill Medley; August 5-7, Fort Bend Theatre's *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*; August 13, Music Fest to benefit Fort Bend County Women's Center; September 16-17, "Abba-The Concert"; September 17-18, Houston Hot Sauce Festival; October 16, Fort Bend Symphony's *Hauntcert*; October 19-23, *Menopause-The Musical*; October 27, The UP! Experience; November 4-5, Sugar Plum Market

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

City Offices Closed: Monday, July 4 (Independence Day); Monday, September 5 (Labor Day)
Tree Limb Pickup: Monday, August 1; Monday, October 3

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



"A NEW BEGINNING"



At 6:00 p.m.

Line up in parking lot across old Houston Community College on Cash Road.

At 7:00 p.m.

PARADE begins in parking lot across old Houston Community College. (See route.)

Following the Parade

PRESENTATION of Parade Winners and **CAKE RECEPTION** for Parade Marshal – Lawrence Vaccaro, Jr.

From 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 midnight

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

From 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

FREE - CARNIVAL RIDES.

From 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

FREE - HAY RIDE.

From 8:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

FREE - STREET DANCE with music by Electric Cowboy.



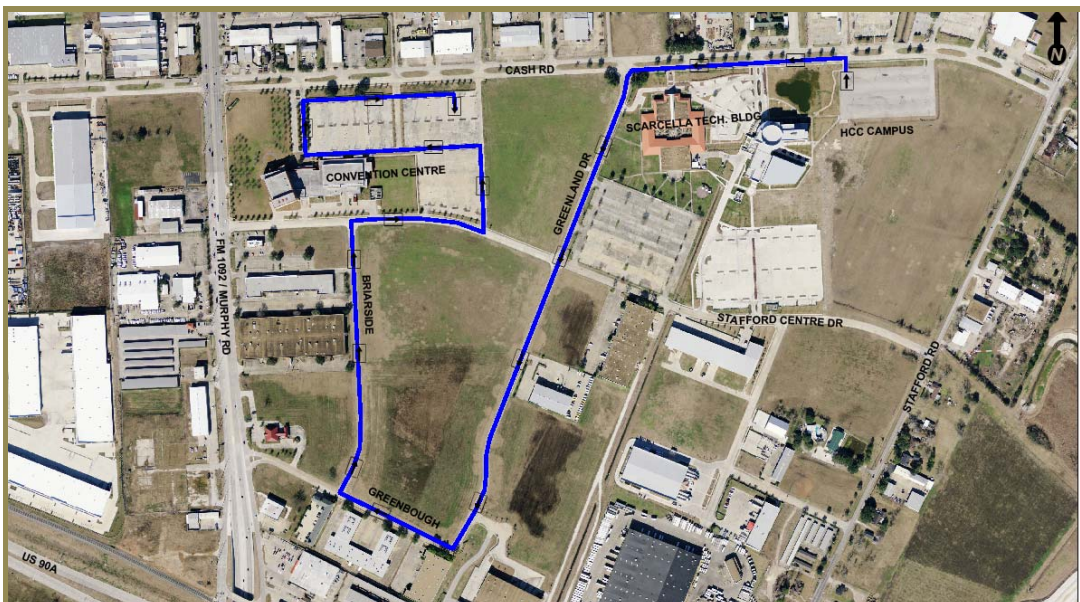
At 7:00 p.m.

FREE - FREEDOM RINGS CONCERT performed by the Fort Bend Symphony in the Stafford Centre Theatre.

At 9:00 p.m.

FIREWORKS in the Festival Field at the Stafford Centre.

NEW PARADE ROUTE BEGINS ON CASH ROAD



Parade begins in parking lot across old Houston Community College. Go left on Cash Road, left on Greenland, right on Greenbough, right on Briarside, right on Stafford Centre Dr., left into the Stafford Centre rear parking lot. Continue through and end in parking lot.



City of Stafford
 2610 South Main
 Stafford, TX 77477

DULLES AVENUE GROUNDBREAKING

The reconstruction of Dulles Avenue is underway. Shown at right are City Engineer Charles Russell, Mayor Leonard Scarcella and Public Works Director Lawrence Vaccaro, Jr. participating in the groundbreaking ceremonies with Sugar Land and Missouri City on May 17 to initiate this project.

The section of Dulles Avenue located in Stafford is about 900 feet immediately south of US 90A. It will be expanded to increase mobility and safety. From Country Club Drive to the north, there will be six lanes. Further south will be four lanes.

Completion of the project is anticipated for late spring 2013. The expected cost to the City for its portion is \$740,000.



SMSD GETS NEW LEADER



Lawrence Hindt, formerly of Fort Bend ISD, was recently selected as the new superintendent of SMSD, beating out 37 other applicants. Mr. Hindt, who is pursuing a Ph.D. at UH, brings a

devotion for students and a compelling vision for the transformation of SMSD.

On May 14, Stafford voters overwhelmingly approved four bond propositions totaling \$49.9 million to not only bring a facelift but a new direction and image to SMSD. Mr. Hindt will be leading that effort.

The restructured Board of Trustees also has a fresh composition: Ettienne Zak was selected as President of the Board, Ed Castillo as its Vice President and ShaMekka Pratt-Simmons as its Secretary.

With this leadership team and coordinated efforts with City Council, there are high expectations for elevating SMSD to an enhanced status.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT

Monday, July 4

7 p.m.

Stafford Centre

FREEDOM RINGS Concert 2011
 Monday July 4th
 7 PM
 Featuring
The Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra
 Fireworks 9 pm
 A FREE All-American Holiday Celebration!

Stafford Centre
 10505 Cash Road

Sponsored by
City of Stafford
 and
The Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra
 in conjunction with
Impact A Hero.

www.staffordcentre.com ★ 281-208-6900