



# The Stafford Newsletter



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See You at the Stafford Centre, Tuesday-Wednesday, July 3-4

## PLANNING FOR CELEBRATION COMPLETED



2011 Celebration on Festival Field at Stafford Centre

Last year, after 36 years, the Independence Day Celebration was moved to the Stafford Centre. In view of its overwhelming success and tremendous public acceptance, the Celebration will again be held there. Minor revisions have been made to enhance the festivities.

Related information and stories are on the following pages.

Set for 7 PM, Wednesday, June 27, at the Civic Center

## NO SMOKING PUBLIC HEARING COULD BRING EARLY FIREWORKS

The long hot summer is likely to get even hotter on the night of June 27 when City Council will conduct a public hearing on whether or not to develop an ordinance prohibiting smoking in all, or some, businesses in the City.

This topic brought out many attendees to City Council meetings in April when those present took advantage of the opportunity to address the matter. Virtually all agreed that smoking, as well as second-hand smoke, was injurious to one's health. Most were in favor of the City imposing prohibitions on businesses, especially those serving food, even though all establishments have full authority to voluntarily prohibit smoking in their place of business. Some proponents went so far as to claim that this would not have a negative impact on the City's economy. Others, while readily acknowledging the dangerous and insidious nature of smoking, considered this view to be, at best, misinformed. This was illustrated when an owner of a bar rose to say that, if the City prohibited smoking in his

establishment, it would force him to close. And, this is just one of the many negative economic downsides which would result from such a ban.

The meeting will be called to order at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27, at the Civic Center, 1415 Constitution Avenue. There will be opening comments by the Mayor and members of Council. The public hearing will then be initiated with all those desiring to address the matter afforded that opportunity. Once the public hearing is concluded, Council will discuss comments made during the hearing and approaches which Council may want to consider in formulating an ordinance on the subject. The meeting will then be adjourned.

The subject will again appear on the agenda of a Council meeting in July for discussion and determination of the manner of proceeding.

You are encouraged to participate in this important proceeding. In the event you cannot attend, the meeting will be telecast and rebroadcast on SMETV, Channel 16.

# CITY COUNCIL NAMES EDUCATOR KATHY RATCLIFF AS PARADE MARSHAL

Past Parade Marshal honorees have come from all walks of life: first responders, veterans, business people, educators and entrepreneurs. All have been outstanding examples of the distinguished citizenry of the City of Stafford. This year's honoree has shaped the future teaching thousands of Stafford children the joy of learning.

Born in Houston, Kathy Ratcliff began her teaching career in 1975 teaching middle school math. By 1982 she began teaching first-graders the joys of learning and the love of reading.

Having taught in the Channelview and Spring Branch school districts, Kathy, her son Lee Wilkes, and her husband, the late Jim Ratcliff (2001 Parade Marshal), came to Stafford in 1986 where Jim became the Stafford High School girls' basketball coach and Kathy would teach first-graders for the next 25 years. For 17 of those years, Kathy was the first-grade team leader and taught Reading Recovery, a highly

effective short-term intervention of one-to-one tutoring dramatically reducing the number of first-graders who have extreme difficulty learning to read.

Kathy was honored for her teaching commitment as the 1992 SMSD Elementary Teacher of the Year. In 2008 Kathy was one of only 1,000 nation-wide recognized by Office Max's *A Day Made Better* program, in partnership with Adopt-A-Classroom, for her dedication and innovative approaches to education.

In over 35 years of teaching, Kathy never tired of seeing a young child's excitement for learning and watching non-readers and beginning readers discover the joys and love of reading.

In honor of her dedication to the education of the children of the Stafford Municipal School District, City Council has named Kathryn Anne Ratcliff as Parade Marshal for this year's Independence Day Celebration.

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## CITY TO REVIVE THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

The City of Stafford, with leadership from Nazy Khadivian who will be coordinating the effort, is reviving the International Festival of Fort Bend. With its beginning in 2007, as well as successful events in 2008 and 2009, it became a function the public embraced. Unfortunately, the 2010 Festival did not measure up to its predecessors; and, as a result, there was no celebration in 2011.

City Council, together with those who had been active in the initial events, determined that a void had been left and that this was a festival that illustrated the benefits of the growing diversity in Stafford and throughout Fort Bend County. With

that in mind, it was decided to once again host this significant display of bringing people of all races, creeds and cultures together to share attributes and demonstrate pride in their heritage.

Festivities will be held at the Stafford Centre on Saturday, October 20, commencing at noon with special presentations and continuing throughout the day with exhibits of costumes, dances and other illustrations of the unique aspects of the more than 35 cultures that will participate.

The City encourages all who may be interested in participating in this gathering to contact Ms. Khadivian at [nazykhadivian@gmail.com](mailto:nazykhadivian@gmail.com) or 832-746-2098.

*City Offices Closed: Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day); Monday, September 3 (Labor Day)*

*Tree Limb Pickup: Monday, August 6; Monday, October 1*

*Holiday Trash Pickup Schedule: When regular pickup falls on a holiday (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4 Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas), the pickup will be made on the next regular scheduled pickup day.*



# City of Stafford



## 37th Annual Independence Day Celebration

Guest of Honor  
2012 Parade Marshal  
**Kathy Ratcliff**



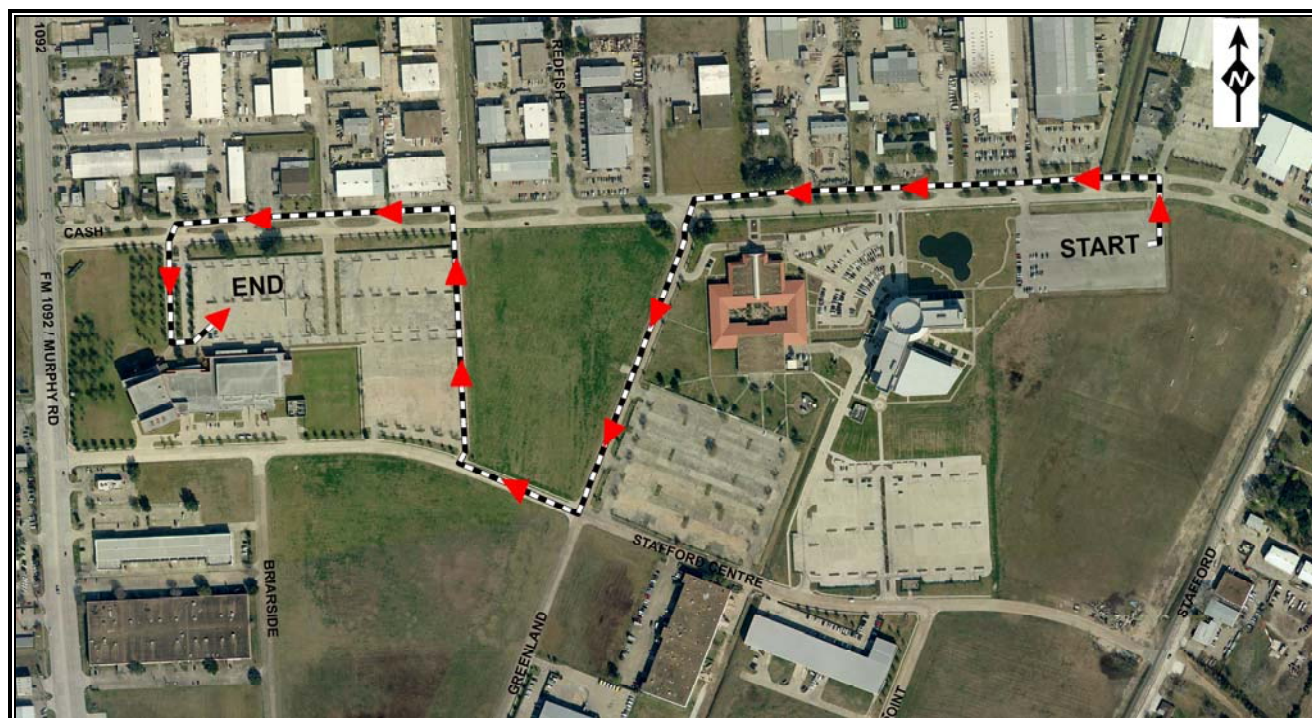
### Tuesday, July 3

Parade	7:00 p.m.
Free Carnival Rides	7:30 – 11:30 p.m.
Food/Game Booths	7:30 – 11:30 p.m.
Free Hay Ride	7:30 – 11:30 p.m.
Free Dance	7:30 – 11:30 p.m.
(featuring The Electric Cowboys)	

### Wednesday, July 4

Freedom Rings Concert – Free	7:00 p.m.
(featuring the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra)	
Fireworks	9:00 p.m.

## PARADE ROUTE



Parade starts in HCC parking lot at corner of Cash and Stafford Road. Travels west down Cash and turns left on Greenland Drive. Turns right on Stafford Centre Drive. Turns right into Stafford Centre's far parking lot. Turns left on Cash. Turns left and enters main entrance of Stafford Centre. Parade ends in Stafford Centre parking lot.



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

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## “THE STAFFORD STORY” HIGHLIGHTS BUSINESS BENEFITS IN ISLAND AND ALONG US 90-A

The Stafford Economic Development Corporation Board has embarked on a project to bring quality development to the greatly enhanced Island area and the US 90-A Corridor.

One of the first steps in this pursuit is to communicate “The Stafford Story” to developers, business people and property owners about the significant benefits of enhancing this

historic area of the City. Mayor Leonard Scarcella has written the story that he and the Board believe will help communicate this message. It is included in the Newsletter.

Should you have comments or suggestions, contact Marian Rocha, SEDC Administrative Assistant, at [mrocha@cityofstafford.com](mailto:mrocha@cityofstafford.com) or 281-261-3903.

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## FREE PATRIOTIC CONCERT HONORS VETERANS

One of the most stirring components of the City’s decades-long, running celebration of the nation’s founding is the Freedom Rings Concert on July 4, featuring the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra. The Concert will honor all our veterans, including those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The repertoire of some of the nation’s most treasured musical compositions should inspire you to not

only appreciate the celebration of our independence but also prepare you for the exciting fireworks display which will take place on the grounds of the Stafford Centre shortly after the program.

The Freedom Rings Concert is **FREE** to the public and will take place in the Stafford Centre Theatre at 7 p.m. We believe it will be a rewarding event, and you are urged to attend.

*Hurricane Season: June 1 through November 30. Find information on how to prepare and stay informed by visiting [www.cityofstafford.com](http://www.cityofstafford.com), Emergency Management.*



*Stafford Centre: Premier Gun Show, July 7-8; Kollaboration Talent Show, July 21; ICC Independence Day Festival, Aug. 19; Shabach Gospel Concert, Sept. 2; Coastal Prairie Quilt Show, Sept. 7-8; Musclemania Space City, Sept. 15; Hot Sauce Festival, Sept. 15-16; Premier Gun Show, Sept. 29-30; Labrada Texas State Body Building Competition, Oct. 13; Indo-American Forum of Fort Bend, Oct. 13; Wedding Expo, Oct. 14; UP Experience, Oct. 25; Houston Vintage Book & Paper Festival, Oct. 27.*