



# The Stafford Newsletter



Spring Clean Up  
April 13

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## NO SMOKING ORDINANCE APPROVED

After a year of discussion which began with the goals of the City for 2012 and commenced with the adoption of an ordinance on February 6, 2013, Stafford now has a strict ordinance preventing smoking in nearly all public places and the great majority of businesses throughout the City.

Following a series of public hearings at which, by a roughly three to one majority, the spokespersons requested that the City impose strict regulations on smoking in accordance with an ordinance crafted by City Attorney Art Pertile. The final step enacting this restrictive ordinance into law was taken two months ago; however, the penal provisions and enforcement of the regulations will be initiated on August 1 of this year.

To say that the new law was contentious would be an understatement. Proponents including Councilwoman Felecia Evans-Smith, who was the strongest advocate among supporting Councilmembers and made the motion for approval, stated that she was "fervent" in favor of imposing these stronger restrictions. Opponents questioned the vilification of businesses that had in no way promoted smoking in their establishments with up to a \$2,000 per

day fine for violations. All affected businesses will be required to post signage illustrating the prohibition of smoking. Failure to fully comply could result in this very substantial fine.

Mayor Leonard Scarcella vigorously questioned those supporting the ordinance, most of whom do not live within the City, about the exceedingly harmful effects of smoking in private residences where small children are a captive to such harmful conditions which are far worse than what they would encounter in virtually all of the restricted businesses. He further took exception to the award given to bars, taverns, and tobacco shops which are totally exempt.

Councilmember Cecil Willis, who also opposed the ordinance, called this "one of the most agonizing, controversial, heart wrenching decisions that Council has had to make." His major complaint centered around the selectivity of exemptions. He contended that, if smoking is a health hazard in the places which are covered by the law, it is equally bad in numerous circumstances excluded.

When the two-hour discussion had concluded, the vote was taken and the ordinance was approved five to two.



Stafford City Wide Pride Spring Clean Up 2012

# INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION PLANS DEVELOPED



*Kathy Ratcliff, 2012 Parade Marshal*

All the Independence Day celebration festivities will be held at the Stafford Centre, starting on Wednesday, July 3, with a parade and followed with carnival rides and games. A street dance and hay ride are scheduled later in the evening. On Thursday, July 4, the Fort Bend Symphony will perform its annual Patriotic Concert. The festivities will end with the fireworks display that night.

## ENHANCED CITY POOL PREPARES FOR OPENING



The City Pool, which will have new decking and other updated amenities, will open on Saturday, May 25. Please refer to the schedule shown below and note that there will be some days it will be closed between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend. The pool will close for the season on Tuesday, September 3.

A most reasonable fare of **\$10 per person** will allow Stafford residents access to the pool for the entire swim season. The cost of daily passes for non-residents is **5 years and over, \$4; 2-4 years, \$2; under 2 years, free.**

Other events offered are three-hour pool parties of \$100 for Stafford residents and \$150 for non-residents. Call the pool at 281-499-8783 for details.

2013 Pool Schedule	Swim Lessons	Stafford Swim Team
<p><b>OPEN:</b>                      Saturday, May 25 - Monday, May 27                      Saturday, June 1 - Sunday, June 2                      Saturday June 8 - Sunday, August 25                      Saturday, August 31- Monday, September 2</p> <p><b>HOURS:</b>                      Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.                      Saturday, 12 noon - 7 p.m.                      Sunday, 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.                      Closed: Monday (non-holidays)</p>	<p>Morning and evening                      Ages 4 and up</p> <p>Sign up begins May 25.</p> <p>For information, call                      281-499-8783 or                      281-499-5763.</p>	<p>May - mid-July</p> <p>Early registration                      begins mid-April.</p> <p>For information, call                      Melissa Garrett at                      281-455-8559.</p>



**Mayor and Three Councilmembers Gain New Two-year Terms**

# MAY 11 CITY ELECTIONS CANCELLED

No challengers filed against the Mayor, Leonard Scarcella, and three incumbent Councilmembers seeking reelection - - Felecia Evans-Smith, Wen Guerra, and Fred Woolridge. As a result, City Council cancelled the Council election and declared the Mayor, Councilwoman, and two

Councilmen reelected.

SMSD will hold a general election on May 11 for the purpose of electing three Trustees to serve for three-year terms ending in May 2016.

For a full insight into the SMSD election, please refer to Pages 2 and 3 of the enclosed SMSD *Spotlight*.

## MAY ELECTION SCHEDULES

Voting in the SMSD election for the three open Trustee positions is scheduled as shown below:

**EARLY VOTING**

**at Stafford City Hall**

2610 South Main, Stafford

Monday, April 29 – Friday, May 3,

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monday, May 6 – Tuesday, May 7,

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**EARLY VOTING**

**at SMSD Administration Building**

1625 Staffordshire, Stafford

Monday, April 29 – Friday, May 3,

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Monday, May 6 – Tuesday, May 7,

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**ELECTION DAY VOTING**

**at Stafford City Hall**

2610 South Main, Stafford

Saturday, May 11

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Independence Day Parade Marshal Nominations**

The deadline for nominations for the Parade Marshal has been extended to May 15. The nomination form, including instructions, is located in the Hot Topics section of the City's website [www.cityofstafford.com](http://www.cityofstafford.com). If you have questions, please contact Councilwoman Felecia Evans-Smith at [fes@cityofstafford.com](mailto:fes@cityofstafford.com).

**Stafford Centre Events**

April 17 – Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo in Concert

April 26 – Fort Bend Seniors 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mad Hatter Luncheon

April 27 – International Model Society's Model Mania 2013

May 10 – Nitin Mukesh in Concert

May 19 – Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra in Concert

May 21 – SMSD Band Concert

June 1-2 – Bead Market

**City Offices Closed**

Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day

**\*\*\*Reminder: Holiday Trash\*\*\***

When regular trash pickup falls on a holiday (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4 Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas), removal will be made on the next regularly scheduled day.

**Tree Limb Service**

The next tree limb service will be performed beginning Monday, July 1. Tree limbs cannot lay in a yard longer than 7 days prior to the pickup schedule.

**Margaret Havens Historical Memorial Garden**

Engraved pavers are still available for installation in the Margaret Havens Historical Memorial Garden.

Anyone wishing to purchase an engraved paver should contact Mr. John Ferro at 281-499-7549 for more information.

# SPRING CLEAN UP SET FOR APRIL 13

For almost two decades, the City has taken great pride in inviting all who desired to spruce up the City with a morning designated to look in the nooks and crannies for debris that should be removed. Citizens, school groups, businesses, and many other volunteers have signed up for the City Wide Pride Spring Clean Up on Saturday, April 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WCA Waste Corporation trucks will pick up heavy trash that day, and items should be by the curb no later than 7 a.m. No paint, chemicals, batteries, normal household waste or car parts will be collected. Lumber, plywood, or similar materials must be cut in four-foot lengths and tied in bundles.

Refrigerators and freezers with the doors removed and drained of coolant will be accepted. Rimless tires placed at the curb and separated from heavy trash will be

removed. Please get permission from the City of Stafford to dispose of a large number of tires. Car batteries may be dropped off at Stafford Auto Supply at 2424 South Main.

A certified contractor will be stationed at the Police Station to shred sensitive documents for anyone who is interested in this service.

Participants of the Spring Clean Up will receive a t-shirt and supplies for cleaning the streets. Lunch will be served. Trophies will be awarded to the winners, with special awards to the "lucky finders."

Anyone wishing to assist with cleaning up of the City rights-of-way, or for information, should contact Marcia Fouts at 281-261-3941. Details and a registration form can be found at [www.cityofstafford.com](http://www.cityofstafford.com).

The City of Stafford wishes to thank the many businesses supporting this event.



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

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## Long-time Building Director and Zoning Administrator Retires

### **GENE BANE CONCLUDES SERVICE IN APRIL**

Gene Bane, who has been a stalwart in the City administration structure for nearly two decades, will officially end his tenure with retirement from the City at the end of this month.

Not only has Gene served as the Director of Building Permits and Nuisance Abatement, Zoning and Planning Administrator, and Economic Development liaison during his time beginning in 1994, he has also handled many sensitive matters for the City. Most significant has been his assistance in developing the original Zoning Ordinance passed in 1997 and the major four-year supplement finalized in 2011.



