



# *The Stafford Newsletter*



Volume 35, Issue 1

Circulation 7,000+

January 2014

Set for Wednesday, January 22, at Civic Center on Constitution Avenue

## **TOWN MEETING AIMS AT PROGRESS**

With the arrival of 2014, Stafford will be embarking on several major endeavors to elevate the City. Among those will be working with purchasers of the Texas Instruments property for the revitalization of the 192 acres, engaging in an aggressive economic development program, initiating a program for a comprehensive development plan to take the City to the year 2040, and expanding educational opportunities.

One of the most applauded accomplishments of this City is its achievement in fiscal responsibility - - including continuing the 18-year old abolishment of city property taxes and the complete extinguishing of general obligation debt - - which gives the City a unique and exalted status not only in Texas, but across the nation.

On Wednesday, January 22, at 7 p.m., in the Stafford Civic Center, the City of Stafford will conduct its annual Town Meeting.

As is tradition, the meeting will begin with the "State of the City and Goals for 2014" presented by Mayor Leonard Scarcella and will be followed by reports by the Department Heads on the status and highlights in their departments, as well as key issues to be addressed in the coming year.

The general public is encouraged to attend and will be afforded the opportunity to address all pertinent issues pertaining to the City during the comment and question session in the open public hearing.

The agenda set forth provides an opportunity for a comprehensive review of the major issues facing the City in the New Year.

- a) *City's economy, zero property tax, sales and other taxes, and fiscal condition;*
- b) *Police and fire protection, homeland security, emergency management operations, and animal control;*
- c) *Redevelopment of Texas Instruments' property;*
- d) *Economic development of City corridors and revitalization of underutilized areas;*
- e) *Comprehensive Development Plan;*
- f) *Elevation of the Stafford Municipal School District and its educational programs;*
- g) *Zoning, building standards and regulations, and enhancement of commercial corridors;*
- h) *Major highway improvements, streets, mobility, and commuter and freight rail;*
- i) *Stafford Centre and Stafford Civic Center;*
- j) *Houston Community College and expanding opportunities for securing jobs;*
- k) *Stafford Municipal Educational Television Station, streaming video, and websites;*
- l) *Increased information technology for security, business safety, and operations;*
- m) *Parks and Swimming Pool;*
- n) *Municipal Court;*
- o) *Future water supply, sanitary sewer, and irrigation sources; and*
- p) *Other matters of interest to the City.*

Over the years, the Town Meeting has been looked to for setting the parameters for improving the City in the coming year. It will be televised live on S-METV Channel 16 Comcast and Channel 99 AT&T U-verse and rebroadcast several times.

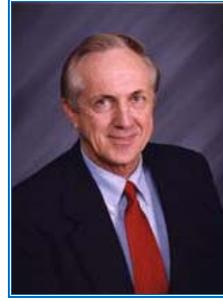
# COUNCILMEN ELECTIONS SET FOR MAY



*Councilman Ken Mathew*



*Councilman Robert Sorbet*



*Councilman Cecil Willis*

Stafford will hold its annual officials' election on Saturday, May 10. The terms for Council members Ken Mathew, Robert Sorbet, and Cecil Willis will expire. Those three seats will appear on the ballot, and candidates for these positions will be seeking a two-year term.

Applications for a place on the ballot for the City of Stafford General Municipal Election are available at Stafford City Hall, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and may be filed Wednesday, January 29, 2014, through Friday, February 28, 2014.

Candidate's packets will contain instructions, forms, and information about the process and the required reports.

In conjunction with the City election, the Stafford Municipal School District also will conduct an election as the terms for members of the Board of Trustees, Rodney Butler and Cindy Hoelscher, will expire.

Applications for the Board member positions, which are three-year terms, are available in Terry Loudenburg's office at the school's Administration Building.

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## STAFFORD CENTRE CELEBRATES 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In March 2004, the Stafford Centre consisting of the Performing Arts Theatre and Convention Centre was formally opened. Over the next two months, a celebration recognizing the extraordinary decade success of the Stafford Centre will be held.

The past ten years have seen some exceedingly impressive events including the Centre's opening performance by the Moscow Ballet; seven years of concerts by the renowned and recently deceased icon, Ray Price; the captivating performance of an American legend, Willie Nelson; and the intriguing display of banjo talents by Steve Martin. Other noteworthy activities which have been conducted are the Fort Bend Jr. Service League's Sugar Plum Market, the prestigious UP Experience, the Fort Bend County Women's Center Boogie Ball, and the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra's seasonal concerts.

The Stafford Centre has become the home of the City's

endeared annual Independence Day Celebration and just this past December delighted scores of Stafford youngsters with the Children's Holiday Spirit Celebration.

The most outstanding attributes of this truly unique venue are that it has introduced tens of thousands of people to Stafford and attracted an estimated three million people to the facility. During its ten-year history, the Stafford Centre has added a dimension and dynamic to this City that has exceeded all expectations and garnered glowing accolades from those in the area, as well as from across the nation.



*Willie Nelson, November 19, 2013, at Stafford Centre*

## ALARM PERMITS EXPIRED IN DECEMBER

Alarm Permits expired December 31, 2013. Permits may be renewed by January 31, 2014, for \$15. The fee is \$25 on or after February 1, 2014. Alarm Permits are available at the Stafford Police Department, and the Alarm Permit Application can be found at [www.cityofstafford.com](http://www.cityofstafford.com) under the section "Forms, Instructions, Fees" on the front page. For questions, call 281-261-3955.

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## PUBLIC WORKS INTERACTIVE MAPS CREATED

The City of Stafford Public Works Department has created interactive maps for the public to find information on City parks, subdivisions, garbage pickup, and more. These maps can be accessed by clicking on the "Maps/GIS" link at the top of the City of Stafford's website [www.cityofstafford.com](http://www.cityofstafford.com). For more information, please contact Jonathan Farmer at 281-261-3922 or [jfarmer@cityofstafford.com](mailto:jfarmer@cityofstafford.com).

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## SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING OFFERED

SKYWARN™ is a free, three-hour training program sponsored by the Houston-Galveston National Weather Service Office, Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management, and the City of Stafford that is scheduled on February 26, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., at the Stafford Police Department. Volunteers will be trained to watch the skies during severe weather and relay reports to various offices. For more information, contact the Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management at 281-342-6185 or [oem@co.fort-bend.tx.us](mailto:oem@co.fort-bend.tx.us), or Jennifer Taylor at Stafford Emergency Management at 281-261-3993. Visit <http://fbcoem.org/go/survey/1528/18086/> to register.

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## CODERED REPLACED; REGISTER WITH 9-1-1

Information is the key to protecting you and your property, especially during emergencies. Stay informed by registering your phone number and email address. Effective February 1, 2014, the City of Stafford will NO LONGER be using the CodeRED Emergency Notification System. Cell phone users registered with CodeRED should register with the **GHC 9-1-1 Emergency Notification System**. Your new emergency alert system is already in place and can be accessed through the City of Stafford website, [www.cityofstafford.com](http://www.cityofstafford.com) or [www.911.org](http://www.911.org).

### *Upcoming Stafford Centre Events*

Power Station, January 18

Sugar Land Home and Garden Show, January 25-26

Stafford High School Choir's "Annie – The Hit Musical", January 31 – February 1

Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra's "Six Flags over Texas", February 2

Christopher Cross and Stephen Bishop, February 13

The Ultimate Doo Wop Show, February 14

Greater Houston Train Show, February 15

Three Mo Tenors, March 22

Houston Persian Festival, March 23

### *City Offices Closed*

Monday, February 17 – President's Day

Friday, April 18 – Good Friday

### *Tree Limb Pickup*

The quarterly tree limb pickup is scheduled to begin Monday, April 7.

# **POLICE DEPARTMENT RESTRUCTURED, SALARIES INCREASED**

At its last meeting of the past year, upon the strong urging of Police Chief and Emergency Services Director, Bonny Krahn, a majority of City Council authorized the restructuring of the Department which will significantly reorganize officers' positions and materially enhance salaries.

The rank of Corporal was elevated to Sergeant, and the various officers from that rank and higher were elevated to Lieutenant and Captain respectively. The starting salary for

new patrolmen, which had previously been \$37,000, was raised to \$43,000 with compensation increases ranging from three percent to thirty-six percent.

Chief Krahn emphasized that this would bring the Stafford PD more in line with departments in the immediate area, thus, making our PD more competitive in terms of attracting and retaining qualified officers.

This new structure will cost in excess of \$300,000 over that of the previous fiscal year.



**City of Stafford**  
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## **FIRE DEPARTMENT SEEKS EXPANSION**

Although the Fire Department has expanded from 45 firefighters in 2006 to a current roster of 92, Chief Larry DiCamillo, in conjunction with Emergency Services Director Bonny Krahn, will be presenting and seeking an expansion of the Department. Several suggestions, including more full-time firefighters and/or additional duty crew personnel, have been briefly discussed.

Chief DiCamillo emphasizes that, in order to maintain the City's prestigious ISO rating of 1, this elevated organization is necessary.

This is in spite of the serious recent questioning of benefits provided by ISO ratings. Cost increases for this revamping are projected to exceed \$250,000.

Considering the financial impacts of these proposals - - past, present, and future - - it will be incumbent on City Council to carefully analyze the benefits of this expansion especially in view of the significant ramifications they will have not only on the Fire Department but the City's operation as a whole.

