



The Stafford Newsletter



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After 45 Years of Celebrated Service

POLICE CHIEF BONNY KRAHN RETIRES

Police Chief Bonny Krahn started his long and celebrated career as a police officer with the City of Stafford in March 1970. In the intervening 45 years, Chief Krahn took control of the Police Department in 1973 and built and elevated it and the Stafford Fire Department and the Emergency Manage-



ment Department into most efficient and heralded operations.

Accolades flowed at his retirement party last month.

The City of Stafford will not be quite the same without the presence of Chief Krahn.

Zero Property Tax Remains in Place

BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

By a unanimous vote, City Council approved the 2015-2016 City and SEDC budgets. Mayor Leonard Scarcella, who prepared both, said that they were sound and prudent budgets that would continue to emphasize the City's three vital premises: a zero property tax, no general obligation debt, and living within our means.

Although contentious at times, City Council had four meetings, held a public hearing, and adopted these budgets at the end of September. One Council action required the Mayor to propose cuts of \$3.2 million. However, no action was taken in regard to these cuts; and, in fact, almost \$750,000 of other expenditures were added by Council.

The Mayor's budgets included adopted additions for two patrol officers, one detective, a canine unit,

and two motorcycle units as part of the patrol detail; a fire inspector; a new crew leader position in the Street Department; significant infrastructure for the information technology section; and major drainage studies related to Vaccaro Manor, Missouri City Estates, Sugar Creek, and Willow Water Hole.

The budgets reflect current cash balances of \$18 million in City funds and \$13 million in SEDC cash funds and illustrate the financial strength of the City and its ability to deal with emergency circumstances in the event they should arise.

These budgets, for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2015, and ending September 30, 2016, are for just under \$32 million - - more than a 20% increase over last year's budget. Most important, sales tax revenues reflect more than a 9% increase over last fiscal year.

CITY HOSTS ANNUAL CHILDREN'S EVENT



As a result of its overwhelming popularity the last two years, the Children's Holiday Spirit Celebration has become an annual event in the City of Stafford. We invite the children and their families to a very enjoyable evening in Santa's Village on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., at the Stafford Centre.

Special attention will be given to

ensure that the variety of children's activities and games will be entertaining. And, let's not forget the star of the show: **SANTA CLAUS**. Admission, activities, games, and food are all **FREE!**

In addition, help "Stuff a Police Car" by bringing a non-perishable food item to benefit local families in need this holiday season!

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH CONFIRMED

Now in its ninth year, the Rockin' New Year's Eve Bash will take place at the Stafford Centre on Thursday, December 31, from 7:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. Back by popular demand, the celebration will feature Nobody's Fool.

Early-bird tickets will be \$55 - - but \$37.50 for Stafford residents - - and go on sale Monday, November 16. The deadline for the early-bird tickets is

Thursday, December 24. Regular tickets will be \$75. The admission price includes dinner, party favors, two drinks, and a champagne toast at midnight. Tickets can be purchased at www.staffordcentre.com or by calling 281-208-6900.

For additional information, visit the Centre's website and click the "Keep Me Posted" tab.

THE CITY OF STAFFORD HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

The City of Stafford launched an all-new website on October 1, 2015. You can visit our new site at <http://www.staffordtx.gov/>. We hope you will find it easier to navigate, as well as useful.

The site is loaded with added features including the option to sign up to receive email versions of *The Stafford Newsletter* and also to connect with us on social media.

Please note that this website replaces the Stafford Police Department's old website: <http://www.staffordpd.com> and the City's old Maps and GIS website <http://www.staffordpw.com>.

If you have any questions please contact Jonathan Farmer, Information and Data Coordinator, at jfarmer@staffordtx.gov or 281-261-3922.

FORT BEND COUNTY APPROVED FOR VOTE CENTERS

According to Fort Bend County Elections Administrator, John Oldham, the implementation of the Countywide Polling Place Program will mean that any eligible Fort Bend voter can cast an Election Day ballot at any County polling location. For the November 3 election, the County anticipates having 80 polling sites open. "Election Day will be like Early Voting with voters able to cast ballots at a polling location most convenient to them. Under this Program, there will be no wrong place to vote," said Oldham.

Three quarters of the Election Day sites planned for November are currently used as polling places; and, under this

plan, all of Fort Bend County's Early Voting locations will also be open on Election Day. Although some traditional polling sites have been eliminated, approximately 20 new locations with improved parking and access have been added.



Fort Bend County has adopted a Countywide Polling Place Program. On Election Day eligible voters may cast a ballot at any Voting location.

To find your nearest polling place go to:
www.fortbendvotes.org

Fort Bend County Office of Elections Administration
4520 Reading Road
Rosenberg, TX 77471
281-341-8670

Smorgasbord

Stafford Centre Events

October

- 30 - AKA Fundraiser Casino Night
- 30 - America in Concert
- 31 - Madan Mohan Remembered Concert

November

- 6-7 - Sugar Plum Market
- 18 - Don Williams in Concert
- 22 - Dil Se Naach – "Bollywood from the Heart"
- 24 - Willie Nelson & Family in Concert
- 28-29 - Missouri City Ballet - "The Nutcracker"

December

- 4 - Houston Latin American Philharmonic – "Latin Christmas"
- 5 - Ghashee w Mashee Play
- 6 - Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra – "Deck the Halls"
- 7 - SMSD Band Concert
- 11-13 - Ballet Forte - "The Nutcracker"
- 19 - Iranian Cultural Foundation Group Concert

January

- 8-9 - Fred Astaire Dance Studio – "Dance Scape"
- 15 - Liverpool Legends
- 16 - Christian Play
- 22-24 - SMSD Choir Play – "Wizard of Oz"

Smorgasbord

Alarm Permits Expire in December
Alarm Permits expire December 31, 2015. Renew by January 31, 2016, for \$15. The fee is \$25 on or after February 1, 2016. Alarm Permits are available at the Stafford Police Department, and the Alarm Permit Application can be found at www.staffordtx.gov. For questions, call 281-261-3955.

City Offices Closed

- Thursday-Friday, November 26-27 – Thanksgiving
- Thursday-Friday, December 24-25 – Christmas
- Friday, January 1 – New Year's Day

Christmas Tree Disposal

The City of Stafford will be accepting Christmas trees for disposal Monday, December 28, 2015 – Friday, January 8, 2016. Trees may be dropped off at the Street Department located at 1014 Staffordshire Road. For more information, please contact the Street Department at 281-499-2626.

Tree Limb Service

Quarterly tree limb service begins Monday, January 4, 2016.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT PROCEEDS

After failure to come to an agreement on incentives, Street Level Investments, purchaser of the 192-acre Texas Instruments property, will be working with the East Fort Bend County Development Authority under the terms of the MU-2 (Mixed Use) Ordinance and the application which were approved by City Council.

The \$26-\$50 million in incentives sought by Street Level failed to gain the support of Council, which had numerous objections to the proposal.

The application and zoning plan that were approved allow for a major retail area (and not an outlet mall as originally discussed), other commercial facilities, 2,400 units of apartments, and 3 warehouse facilities on 19 acres fronting Murphy Road.

Under the arrangements of the Authority, any incentives and public funds to the developers will come from W.C. & I.D. No. 2 and Fort Bend County. Preliminary construction efforts are expected to begin shortly.



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NEARS COMPLETION

The Comprehensive Plan, which was undertaken in 2014 to update the original Comprehensive Development Plan approved by the City in 1971, is nearing completion.

After numerous meetings, public hearings, and extensive discussions, the Plan proposed by a select committee has been presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission for its final recommendations. The recommendations, as well as other considerations City Council determines appropriate, will be carefully evaluated this month. Upon final approval of the

main components of the Plan - - goals, major projects, and funding, Council will adopt an ordinance approving this blueprint through the Year 2040.

Much credit goes to those who worked on developing the new Comprehensive Plan including the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, the Planning & Zoning Commission, City Council, staff - - namely, Cristin Emshoff and Charles Russell - - and the consultants, Freese & Nichols.

The cost of this endeavor is \$150,000.