



The Stafford Newsletter



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November 2016

Zero Property Tax Retained for 21st Year

BUDGETS FOR FY 2016-2017 ADOPTED

City Council voted to have all budget meeting workshops televised this year in their effort to keep the citizens informed and demonstrate transparency in budget discussions.

City Council approved the 2016 – 2017 budgets for the City and the Stafford Economic Development Corporation with the majority of the vote.

The Zero Property Tax (which abolished City Property Taxes in 1995) was retained for the 21st consecutive year.

A few accomplishments of the budget are as follows: Stafford Police Department increased patrol staff by 4 officers together with the necessary equipment; approval of the drainage project in Vaccaro Manor; funding to explore and resolve drainage difficulties of Missouri City Estates and Sugar Creek with a possibility of future long term plan of these projects;

approval of a minimum of 2.0% raise for employees; additional full time administrative assistants for the Finance Department and Civic Center; provide Information Technology with capital outlay for fiber infrastructure; provide both equipment and an Inventory Asset Assessment Software Program to Public Works. In addition, City Council approved a resolution for staff to complete a 5-year infrastructure and Capital Improvement Assessment Study. City Council will look to identify additional revenue sources to finance 2016-2017 expenses and other priorities identified by the 5-year Capital Improvement Study.

These budgets for the new fiscal year begin October 1, 2016 and end September 30, 2017 total over \$45 million reflecting the continued growth and expansion of city services.

ANNUAL SANTA'S VILLAGE EVENT SET



One of the most celebrated and delightful activities for children in the City each year is Santa's Village Event, which initiates the Holiday Season with this entertaining program at the Stafford Centre on **Tuesday, November 29, 2016, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

Some of the most pleasurable aspects of this very special evening will focus attention on a visit by Santa Claus to receive the wish lists of the children. The program will include choirs from SMSD singing a broad array of holiday songs, free hotdogs, cookies and drinks for attendees and booths from each of the City departments with goodies for the kiddies. Admission, activities, games, and food are all **FREE**.

"Stuff a Police Car" will be one main feature of the evening. All attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to brighten the Holiday Season for local needy families.

Stuff a Police Car Delivery in 2015 to East Fort Bend Human Needs charity.



NEW STAFFORD CENTRE MARQUEE SIGN INSTALLED



The Stafford Centre, which opened in 2004 and has attracted and delighted over 3 million visitors, is amplifying its calling to the public for forthcoming events and activities with a most impressive new high definition 300 square foot marquee.

This attention getting marquee, which was funded by the SEDC is visible travelling both north and south on FM 1092 will add a new dimension to advertising forthcoming events and activities at this exquisite facility.



NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH CONFIRMED

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

Early-bird tickets will be \$55 - -but only \$37.50 for Stafford residents. All tickets will go on sale Monday, November 14. The deadline for the early bird tickets is Friday December 23. After that date tickets will cost \$75.00.

The admission price includes dinner, party favors, two drinks and a champagne toast at midnight. For more information and tickets can be purchased at www.staffordcentre.com or by calling 281-208-6900.



cut & save

BULLETIN BOARD

Alarm Permits Fees have changed

As of November 2, 2016 Alarm Permits will be charged as follows:

1. Residential Installation Fee and Residential User/Operator Annual Fee: \$50.00 per calendar year. and
 2. Commercial Installation Fee and Commercial User/Operator Annual Fee: \$250.00 per calendar year.
- Alarm Permits are available at the Stafford Police Department, and the Alarm Permit Applications can be found at www.staffordtx.gov. For questions, call 281-261-3955.

City Offices Closed

Thursday 24th November & Friday 25th November 2016 for Thanksgiving
Friday 23rd & Monday 26th December 2016 for Christmas

Christmas Tree Disposal

Christmas Tree Disposal. The City of Stafford will be accepting Christmas trees for disposal Tuesday, December 27, 2016 – Friday, January 6, 2017. 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

Tree Limb Service is on the 1st Monday of the following months:
October, January, April, July

Residential Trash Pick-Up Schedule

Residential Trash Pick-up days are Mon. & Thur. or Tue. & Fri. **There will be no trash pick-up if it falls on a holiday. Your trash collection will be on your next regular trash pick-up day.**

FIRE STATION #2 EXPANSION PLANNED

With ever increasing demands on our Fire Department Fire Chief Larry Di'Camillo has emphasized the need to expand Fire Station # 2 located on Mula Road.

City Council retained the architectural firm BRW Architects to plan facilities at this site, which will take the Fire Department well into the future. Specifically the Architect is proposing three additions and expansions:
#1 - Complete remodel of Fire Station # 2
#2 - Construction of Training Tower
#3 - Construction of Administration Building.

In the new budget these items totaling \$2.3 Million are provided for under Capital Projects. Specific approaches to funding will be determined by Council in the near future.



WELCOME MILTON & PATTI



Welcome



**Dr. K M (Milton) Rahman, PhD, PE, PMP, CFM
Public Works Director**

**Patti Worfe, PCED
Executive Director**

The City recently welcomed Dr. Milton Rahman to our Public Works as its Director. He comes to us from the City of San Antonio where he served as the head of the Infrastructure Asset and Program Management division of Public Works. Dr. Rahman's experience, skills, qualifications and accolades are most impressive.

As a licensed Professional Engineer and instructor, he has imparted his knowledge to many students when serving as Lecturer at the University of San Antonio.

Upon his arrival in the City of Stafford he is responsible for Capital Projects, Engineering Studies, Street, Drainage, Parks, Vehicle, and Building Maintenance.

Dr. Rahman joined us this past July. He has already made a significant impact on several major projects, including pressing drainage issues and enhancements to the FM 1092 Corridor.

The City of Stafford just welcomed Ms. Patti Worfe as The Executive Director of the Stafford Economic Development Corporation (SEDC). Ms. Worfe comes to us from the City of Angleton where she served as the Economic Development Coordinator for in excess of 15 years and also served as the City of Angleton's Assistant City Manager.

Ms. Worfe responded to how she felt about making a change after so long with her former employer. Her very positive response was, "I am excited to be here and working to help promote the City of Stafford", she stated.

Ms. Worfe went on to say "My background includes over a decade and a half of economic and community development. My goal is to help promote Stafford as having the most incredible incentive to offer businesses.....NO CITY PROPERTY TAX!"

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

For the past two decades, Stafford has been recognized as having one of the strongest and most vibrant financial structures of any city in the area, state, and indeed, the nation. Propelled by a Zero Property Tax and substantially bolstered by a philosophy of 'living within our means', have led to extraordinarily healthy cash fund balances while allowing our citizens and taxpayers to enjoy the benefits of a sterling array of accomplishments only dreamed of by others.

This has all been placed in serious jeopardy by the FY 2016-17 Budget recently adopted by City Council which adheres to an approach of 'spend because we might need it'. This flawed path relies on many revenue generating schemes that have as their faulty foundation the gouging of our residents and commercial interests with increased fees and

assessments. Most alarming: This is an irresponsible financial prescription likely to lead to the reimposition of property taxes and the running off of many of our citizens and businesses.

With the local economy in a tail spend over low oil prices and the national economy floundering with the smallest Gross National Product increase since World War, reliance on this spend thrift strategy is most unwise.

I will endeavor to encourage Council and our Department Heads to expend funds only as truly necessary so we can maintain the City's healthy and vibrant fiscal structure and the critical Zero Property Tax.



Leonard Scarcella, Mayor



City of Stafford
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

SEDC MESSAGE

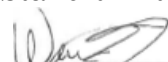
After many hour of work and much consideration, the SEDC passed a budget for the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year. With the addition of a new Executive Director to help oversee it, we are looking forward to several capital improvements that will be funded by the SEDC: **1.** The SEDC has committed funds for the expansion and redevelopment of the FM1092 corridor. This project will begin with improvements to the intersection of W. Airport and FM 1092 that include the addition of eastbound left and right turn lanes, the addition of a westbound through lane and the extension of westbound turn lanes and the construction of new sidewalks. The next phase of this project will include the design phase of the primary retail corridor along FM 1092.

2. The SEDC has committed funds to a redevelopment of Staffordshire Road from US90A South to Scanlin Road that will include new sidewalk construction.

3. In light of recent events in the nation, the SEDC has also approved funds for the Police Department to purchase new security tools to better monitor the primary commercial/retail areas of the city. This will help to ensure the safety of visitors to these high visibility areas and give our Officers new tools to fight crime.

4. The SEDC is working with the Stafford Centre on the best way to utilize the vacant land adjacent to the current facilities and a new marquee is in place and should be functional soon to help promote all the incredible events happening there!

We look forward to lots of new activity in Stafford in the coming year!



Wen Guerra, President SEDC

