

STAFFORD QUARTERLY

A Newsletter from the Town of Stafford, Connecticut

IN THIS ISSUE

Office of the First Selectman	1, 2
Stafford Police Department	2
Water Pollution Control Authority	3
Human Resources	3
Town Clerk	4
Grants & Community Dvlpmnt	5
Stafford Library	6
Senior & Community Center	7
& more!	



READ ALL ABOUT IT

— from the Office of the First Selectman —

Thank you for taking the time to read our end-of-Summer newsletter. This publication hopes to cultivate a stronger understanding of local government, broaden communication within our community, and provide important information and resources to the public.

THE FOLLOWING WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST TWO FISCAL QUARTERS AT THE STAFFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Under the direction of the Resident State Trooper, with Stafford Officers, we're pleased to share recent milestones, modernizations, and successes achieved by the Stafford Police Department:

1. Implementation of the body worn camera/in car camera program to adhere to the state's 2020 Police Accountability Act.
2. All sworn Town Police officers are now equipped with rifles.
3. School Resource Officer (SRO) is now equipped with a mobile radio, computer, and rifle.
4. Department taser program updated and all officers have been retrained.
5. Secure rifle racks have been installed in cruisers, allowing for speedy deployment in an emergency situation. Previously, guns were locked in cases with two numerical pad locks with varied combinations.
6. Cruiser cages were installed in rear trunk spaces to safely secure all sensitive items.
7. New bullet proof vests were purchased for all officers, replacing previously expired equipment.
8. Police radios have been updated, replacing obsolete technology.
9. Training policy and procedures have been updated to ensure transparent, safe, and accountable delivery of law enforcement services in Stafford.
10. Police K9 newly trained for tracking and recovery.
11. Two new police cruisers have been ordered to update and expand our fleet. The purchase reduces wear and tear on vehicles and allows for all personal to be outfitted with a cruiser in the event of a critical incident that requires an all-officer deployment.

Continued page 2...

TOWNS COLLABORATE ON BUILDING OFFICIAL SERVICES

The Town of Stafford and Town of Somers recently joined together in an agreement that will provide needed Building Official services to the Town of Somers while they conduct a search to replace their vacant Building Official position. The Town of Stafford is very fortunate to have two qualified Building Inspectors, Glenn Setzler and Mark Morrison, who is also the Town of Stafford's Fire Marshal. This enables Stafford the ability to extend Building Official services to Somers without disruption to Stafford's Building and Fire Marshal functions. In return, the Town of Somers will compensate Stafford through sale of service fees and provision of additional Fire Marshal support. A collaboration of this kind is a new relationship for Stafford and Somers, one which First Selectman, Salverio Titus, looks forward to expanding in other areas in the future.

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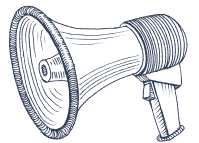
- 12. All bikes have been serviced and repaired to help aid in community policing.
- 13. Two quads were repaired and serviced, which will aid in search and rescue missions in heavily wooded areas and as community policing tool.
- 14. All Town officers have been provided with cell phones and voicemail, which aids them in investigations.
- 15. All calls for service are now being dispatched by Troop C, making procedures more efficient and keeping both troopers and civilians safer.

There have been recent resident complaints concerning the number/frequency of police vehicles parked at the police station. The above list represents an all-officer effort, resulting in increased in-office police presence to achieve milestones. As you can imagine, these items required large amounts of Officer time to address. Simultaneously, they also responded to all calls for service, worked open investigations, and prepared and participated in numerous and ongoing community events (ex. Child Safety Day, Flag Day, Summerfest, Blues Fest, etc.).

All police vehicles are equipped with GPS systems and are monitored by Troop C and the Resident Trooper Supervisor. Police vehicles have also been equipped with camera's and each officer has a body worn camera.

TOWN OF STAFFORD · OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN · SALVERIO P. TITUS · (860) 684-1777 · FIRSTSELECTMAN@STAFFORDCT.ORG

TIPS FROM THE RESIDENT STATE TROOPER'S OFFICE



SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDER

Hello Stafford,

This is Officer Earl Middleton from the Stafford Police Department and I'm currently assigned to the Stafford Public Schools as the School Resource Officer (SRO). I just want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the school year has begun. Give yourself plenty of time during your commute because traffic will be heavier, children will be out and school buses will be on the roads. Please be patient and obey all traffic laws. Also, as a friendly reminder, passing a standing school bus when they are loading and unloading students can place students in grave danger.

In Connecticut, drivers must stop at least 10 feet away from a school bus and cannot proceed until the bus has retracted the stop-arm and deactivated the red flashing lights. It's illegal to pass a stopped school bus that is loading and unloading children. When a bus activates its yellow lights, drivers should slow down and be prepared to stop. Once the red flashing lights are activated and the stop-arm comes out, traffic on either side of the roadway must stop. Currently, the penalties for passing a School Bus is \$475.00! Let's keep our kids safe during this school year!

Respectfully,

Officer Earl Middleton, SRO
Stafford PD & Stafford Public Schools

PRECAUTION & PREVENTION TIPS

Considering several recent occurrences, Stafford residents are asked to consider the following tips:

- Inventory your valuables: document VIN/serial numbers, photos of property and unique identifiers, and scans of receipts. If the property is lost or stolen, this will aid in its recovery.
- Consider installing home surveillance cameras.
- Avoid announcing vacations or when you will be away from home for long periods of time on social media. Wait until you get home to post travel photos.
- Do not list your home address when selling items on social media platforms.
- Remove valuables, keys, and other visible items from vehicles, especially during the overnight hours.
- Please remember, police investigations are ongoing and can take a long time before producing results.

Always report suspicious persons or vehicles, and crimes immediately to the Stafford Resident Trooper's Office at 860-684-3777 or Connecticut State Police (Troop C) in Tolland 860-896-3200. For more safety information and resources, visit: staffordct.org/departments/police/index.php

STAFFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT · RESIDENT STATE TROOPER'S OFFICE
2 MAIN STREET · STAFFORD, CT · 860-684-3777

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

WPCF is on the road doing yearly maintenance to sewer lines. If you notice a smell in your home, run water into all sinks and flush toilets. Cleaning the sewer lines can create a vacuum, removing water in toilets, and drain traps.

Over the summer and fall WPCF will be replacing or relining sewer lines on Parkess, Furnace Ave and Olympic Ave.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY · 50 RIVER ROAD · STAFFORD, CT(860) · 860-684-3642
WPCA@STAFFORDCT.ORG · STAFFORDCT.ORG/DEPARTMENTS/WATER_POLLUTION_CONTROL

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Positions for the Town of Stafford currently accepting applications:

- [Animal Control Officer](#)
- [Senior Transportation Driver](#)
- [Director of Finance](#)
- [Building and Zoning Office Manager](#)

> [Town of Stafford Employment Application](#)

Qualified applicants should send completed application and resume to:

Town of Stafford
Attn: Human Resources
1 Main Street
Stafford Springs, CT 06076
or email HR@staffordct.org

Or learn about [Board of Education Employment Opportunities](#)

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
HR@STAFFORDCT.ORG
1 MAIN STREET · STAFFORD, CT
860-851-8105
STAFFORDCT.ORG/DEPARTMENTS/HUMAN_RESOURCES.PHP

DID YOU KNOW?!

» The Department of Public Works maintains over 115 miles of paved and unpaved roadway. That’s the equivalent of driving to Hampton Beach, New Hampshire or Times Square, New York City. DPW travels this distance numerous times each winter storm.

» A referendum vote or regular municipal election costs the Town approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 per polling place. This covers poll worker pay, printing ballots, ballot reader programming, legal notices, etc.

» Town Collective Bargaining Agreements require posting open positions internally within the union for a designated period of time. If a transfer within the union occurs, that position may not ever be posted externally.

» The Town owns, operates and maintains 11 park and recreation facilities and mows approximately 89 acres of Town property with a staff of just five (5), full-time employees! That’s the equivalent of 67 football fields!

PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

The Planning and Zoning Commission has recently completed updating the Town’s Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission began reviewing the current plan and discussing topics ranging from Economic Development, open space, town facilities and infrastructure in March of 2021. The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is a comprehensive plan for Stafford’s future.

The State requires the Planning and Zoning Commission to prepare POCDs every ten years. Developing a POCD provides us an opportunity to reflect on our collective vision of our economic, natural and social environments. We then create goals and tasks to accomplish that vision. This plan acts as a statement of policies, goals and standards for the physical and economic development of the municipality. This Plan is required to be completed and approved by October 2022.

In accordance with Connecticut General Assembly 8-23 h.5., a Public Hearing concerning the POCD will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 7:00pm in the Stafford Community Center (3 Buckley Highway). If any residents, business owners or concerned parties wish to participate, they are invited to attend and comment. Additionally, the Planning and Zoning Commission meets the first and third Thursday of each month.

[VIEW 2022 POCD DRAFT 2022-2032](#)

TOWN OF STAFFORD
DOG REGISTRATION

Per Connecticut General Statutes, all dogs must be licensed at the age of 6 months. Newly obtained dogs age 6 months or older, must be licensed within 30 days of new ownership. When purchasing a dog license, a rabies certificate and a spayed/neutered certificate (if applicable) must be shown in order for a license to be issued. Licenses renewals were due this past June. Registration and licensing is meant to ensure that dogs are vaccinated for rabies and can be returned to their owners if they become lost.

Failure to license a dog is a violation of state law and town ordinances. There is a large number of unregistered dogs in the Town of Stafford. The Animal Control Officer is slated to call owners of unregistered dogs and if licensure is not remedied, a ticket will be issued to the respective owner.

To download the Dog License Registration Form or for additional information, please visit staffordct.org/departments/town_clerk

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

Absentee Ballot applications are now available from the Town Clerk for the November 8th, 2022 Gubernatorial Election. Electors can vote in person or by Absentee Ballot.

TOWN CLERK
1 MAIN STREET · STAFFORD, CT
(860) 684-1765
STAFFORDCT.ORG/CLERK.PHP
CLERK@STAFFORDCT.ORG

GRANTS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ENVISIONED DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

In collaboration with the Town of Stafford Historic Advisory Commission, a Request for Proposals was recently issued, seeking a qualified consultant’s services to complete forms and necessary documentation to nominate an area in Downtown Stafford Springs to the National Register of Historic Places. The envisioned historic district focuses on areas around Main Street and what is known as the Village of Stafford Springs. This project is funded by a Survey & Planning Grant administered by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). This high-level study includes field investigation, photography, archival research, and report preparation. The project will ensure the preservation of Stafford’s history, the pursuant of a Historic District, spur economic development, bolster community pride, and encourage future preservation, while benefiting both residents and business owners.

EARL M. WITT SCHOOL HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS CLEANUP

In May, the Town of Stafford received a \$650,000 US Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields grant to cleanup hazardous building materials at the decommissioned Earl M. Witt School in Hyde Park. Once remediated, the project proposes a reuse as a mixed-use, mixed-income building that includes a permanent farmers/cooperative space, dining, developing the gym and kitchen spaces for much-needed recreation and entertainment opportunities while providing a legal space for farmers and entrepreneurs to pursue certified food ventures. In addition, the upper floors propose affordable senior housing with an adult day care center. The project lends itself as a potential solution to the downtown food desert, missing recreational amenities indicated by community engagement activities, fair housing opportunities, and redeveloping areas of existing infrastructure.

To augment in-house capabilities, an RFP will be issued this month to procure a Qualified Environmental Professional/CT DEEP-approved Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) to generate required cleanup plans and oversee remedial actions. Learn more at www.explorestaffordct.com/brownfields

E-NOTIFICATION REGISTRATION



The Town of Stafford has created several email distribution lists to inform residents of Town-related alerts, news, and activities.

Alerts can be sent via email or text, so you’ll never miss a communication about an emergency event or Town news item.

Please note: even if you were previously subscribed to receive notifications, all residents are asked to re-register with the new system.

To register for the e-notification system, please visit the Town of Stafford Website:

REGISTER FOR E-NOTIFICATIONS

UPCOMING TOWN EVENTS

TRICK-OR-TREAT ON MAIN STREET

Saturday • October 29 • 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Put on your favorite costumes and join the fun! Each year, Stafford’s Main Street closes to auto traffic and opens as a pedestrian walkway for costumed families to enjoy a safe and social Halloween event. For two hours - or until candy runs out - costumed kiddos collect goodies from participating businesses, the First United Methodist Church, and pop-up tables throughout Downtown. Voting for the Stafford Garden Club’s Annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest will also take place in Haymarket Common. Rain date: October 30.

WINTERFEST PARADE OF LIGHTS

Saturday • December 10 • 3:00pm - 7:00pm The

brightest night in Stafford returns to ring in the holiday season on Saturday, December 10, from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. A festive hometown tradition, WinterFest features live performances, visits with Santa, a community bonfire, food trucks, the Parade of Lights, and hundreds of luminaries throughout Main Street. Rain Date: December 11.

TOWN OF STAFFORD EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

The Town of Stafford is seeking volunteers to serve on the newly formed Town of Stafford Events & Celebrations Committee. This committee will be comprised of creative, responsible, and hands-on volunteers wanting to build upon the Town of Stafford's signature events and grow new opportunities for community gatherings. The goal of this committee is to coordinate meaningful events and celebrations which benefit residents and businesses of Stafford while generating positive publicity, tourism, and community engagement opportunities. This committee will work in conjunction with the Grants & Community Relations Department. Committee members' responsibilities include conceptualizing, managing, planning, logistics, and marketing events sponsored by the Town of Stafford.

The Events Committee shall follow all recommended safety protocols for events as deemed necessary by the State and/or local police department, schedule any use of town property for events through the First Selectman's Office, and will work with the Grants & Community Development Department to complete initiatives.

For additional information on this committee and related activities, please email amberw@staffordct.org or visit staffordct.org

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS AT THE STAFFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Activity calendar is subject to change and some opportunities require pre-registration. Please visit www.staffordlibrary.org for full participation details and more event opportunities.

LITTLE ROCK STARS STORYTIME • WEDNESDAYS, 10:30AM
Ongoing, Music, stories, motion and more!

MOVE AND GROOVE STORYTIME • FRIDAYS, 10:30AM
Ongoing, Enjoy stories, movement, and music!

OASIS: OPEN ART STUDIO IN STAFFORD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

A monthly open art studio night for Adults and Teens. Supplies are provided, but limited. Be sure to register early.

IT'S HIP TO BE SQUARE: INTRO TO SQUARE DANCING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Join us for a very special evening of square dancing! Professional Square Dance Caller, Rich Sbardella, will teach everything you need to know. No experience (or partner) is required. Ages 9+

READ TO THE DOGS
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Children, ages 5 to 12, are invited to read a short story or chapter of a book to the Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dogs. These friendly four-legged pups are trained to be great listeners. Bring a book from home or choose one from the library's collection.

STAFFORD LIBRARY UNPLUGGED: ACOUSTIC JAM SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 6:00PM - 8:00PM

Special acoustic jam session. Adults and teens are invited to bring acoustic instruments (guitars, ukuleles, mandolins, banjos, harmonicas, or just your voice.) No experience is required - this is a just-for-fun opportunity to play easy songs with other musicians.

CREDIT REPAIR CLINIC
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Join us to learn the basic of credit management and repair with representatives from Hartford Federal Credit Union. This is a three session clinic: Sept. 15: Credit Reports; Oct. 13: Budgeting; Nov. 17: Paying down debt and creating an emergency fund.

STAFFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY • WWW.STAFFORDLIBRARY.ORG
10 LEVINTHAL RUN • STAFFORD, CT • (860) 684-2852
MON/TUES/THURS: 10AM-8PM • WED/FRI: 10AM-5PM • SATURDAY: 10AM-3PM

GRANTS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT • 1 MAIN STREET • STAFFORD, CT
(860) 851-8102 • AMBERW@STAFFORDCT.ORG



The Stafford Library is a wonderful fun and free resource for learning, support literacy and education! There's always something new to experience at the Library, this is what's on the upcoming calendar:

STAFFORD COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER

3 BUCKLEY HIGHWAY · STAFFORD, CT · (860) 684-3906 · (860) 684-3907 · WWW.STAFFORDCT.ORG/COMMCENTER.PHP · WWW.FB.COM/STAFFORDCT

The Stafford Community Center provides a range of services and activities benefiting Stafford residents. Services are distinguished by three main categories:

SENIOR CENTER

The Stafford Senior Center offers programs and information to assist older adults ages 60 and up to lead more enriched lives. Programs that have remained open throughout the pandemic include:

- Meals on Wheels
- Medical appointment transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Municipal Agent for The Elderly - providing information and referral services, distributing information, assisting them in learning about community resources, and helping them apply for benefits
- CHOICES Counseling (Connecticut's program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral, Counseling, Eligibility Screening).
- Title 19 Assistance and Renters' Rebate Program
- Medical equipment lending library
- Application assistance for Connecticut Department of Social Services programs, such as the Medicare Savings Program and Connecticut Home Care program for the Elderly.
- AARP Safe Driving Course
- Senior Congregate Meals Program, serving lunches Monday through Friday at the Senior Center to seniors and their guests.

- Out-of-town shopping trips on the Senior Bus
- Weekly board games and quilting group, and a select movies and art classes.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Stafford Social Services programs are designed to assist individuals and families with meeting their basic needs. We are able to provide direct assistance through:

- Bi-weekly Mobile Foodshare distributions and our Emergency Fuel Bank and Emergency Food Bank, both of which are funded through private donation
- Community Garden - there are raised garden beds located at the Community Center, providing free, fresh produce during the growing season.
- Social Services is also the Stafford intake site for the CT Energy Assistance Program, Operation Fuel, The CT Water Assistance Program, Ever-source Payment arrangements, and the Salvation Army.
- Application assistance for programs offered through the CT Department of Social Services, such as Husky Health, the Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP), and cash assistance.
- Collaboration with Safe Net Ministries, the Stafford Family Resource

Center & Early Head Start, and Santa's Toy Box to administer programs for Back-to-School, holiday assistance.

- The Emergency Food Bank with expanded supply of baby essentials

COMMUNITY CENTER

The Stafford Community Center is a gathering place for meeting and event spaces for various town boards/commissions, and a venue for events that enrich our community at large. There are six boards and commissions that meet at the Center on a regular basis, as well as the Stafford Lions Club and an Al-Anon Family Group. The building has been the site for vaccine clinics, blood drives, arts and crafts shows, town police and emergency management trainings, is a rain location for the summer concert series, and host scouting events.

Current activities include Qigong class, arts and crafts, monthly movie, community cafe lunch program, and speak-ers.



 **FARMDAY2022**

Sept. 11th

HERITAGE PARK & WITT FARM
Stafford
11 am to 4 pm

FREE ADMISSION!

- Wagon Ride/Farm Tour by Triple T Farm
- Tractor, Farm and Animal Exhibits
- Local Vendors & Businesses
- Community Organizations
- Activities for the Kids
- Food Trucks
- Live Music and DJ Bosco Fowler
- Sponsorship and Vendor Spaces Available

(Rain Date 9.18.22)



More Info: Kim 860.729.6310 kim@fosterhillfarm.com



8TH ANNUAL STAFFORD GARDEN CLUB SCARECROW CONTEST

Calling all local businesses, schools, and organizations! The Stafford Garden Club Annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest returns, adorning Downtown throughout the month of October with festive, homemade creations! You're invited to join the fun in 2022!

Registration by September 17th is required for contest entry.

[Register online at www.staffordgardenclub.org](http://www.staffordgardenclub.org)

Dates: Scarecrows must be set up between October 1st and October 8th, and taken down by Nov. 5.

Prizes: One winner in each category, Businesses, Organizations and Schools, with a prize of \$100 each.

Setup: We ask that participants bring their scarecrows to Warren Memorial Hall at 1 Main Street on Saturday morning, October 1, from 9:00 a.m. to noon for display on Main Street. Businesses may create a display their scarecrow in front of their business location, though we strongly encourage you to bring yours Downtown, making it a lively destination for all this fall. Those who cannot make it downtown on that date can email Hugh Owen (howen@staffordgardenclub.org) or Mary Quinn (gquinn@snet.net) to find out where they can set up. We ask that scarecrows be set up by Oct. 8.

About the scarecrows: The construction should be durable enough to withstand severe weather, and entrants must monitor the condition of their scarecrows for the duration of the contest. Please attach your business, organization, or school name to your scarecrow. Promotional materials and giveaways are not allowed. Commercially made scarecrows and those with a political theme are not allowed.

Voting: Ballots will be cast at the Stafford Garden Club's booth in Haymarket Common during Trick-or-Treat on Main on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. We'll announce the winners at 5:00 p.m. at Haymarket Common, and on the Garden Club's Facebook, Instagram, and website.

Good luck, and let your creativity shine! We can't wait to see what you all come up with this year!