

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Leonard Leon Scarcella**

Long term Mayor of the City of Stafford, Texas, Leonard Scarcella, gives an in depth interview in which he discusses his family history, the history of Stafford, the Italian migration to Stafford, the prohibition years in Stafford, his tenure as mayor, Texas Instrument's impact on Stafford, the Fort Bend Economic Development Corporation, the decision to abolish Stafford city property taxes, and building the Stafford Center. Elected in 1969, Leonard Scarcella has served as mayor of Stafford City continuously since that time.

24 Pages

∥ *Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview.* ∥

## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Leon Scarcella – father, died May 25, 1951  
 Mary Court – maternal grandmother  
 Ross Bonano – maternal grandfather, merchant  
 Margaret Court Bonano – Mother  
 William Stafford. – part of Austin’s Old 300,  
 established a plantation in 1821, died in 1845  
 Frank Cangelosi – uncle  
 Katy Court Cangelosi – aunt  
 Mrs. Blix – property survey fence post  
 Mr. A. K. Jacobs – landowner  
 Billy Wright – first Mayor of Stafford (1956-  
 1964)  
 A. J. Tony Jebbia – second Mayor of Stafford  
 City (1964-1969)  
 Gordon family – Gordon Jewelry Stores  
 Colonel Stout – Commander, 147th Air  
 National Guard Unit, Ellington Field  
 Joe and Regina Agnello – landowners  
 Kempner Family of Sugar Land  
 Jerry Finger – Finger Furniture  
 Herb Appel and Jeff Wiley – Fort Bend  
 Economic Development Corp

Hilmar Moore – Mayor of Richmond

Cash Family – Stafford Economic  
 Development Corporation

Jordy Tollett – 2012 Olympics

Patsy Sabrsula

Senator John Cornyn

Sid Adger

### Places / Businesses

Temple, Texas

Steele Store

Sicily, Italy

Holy Family Catholic Church, Missouri  
 City

Stafford’s Golden Strip

Missouri City, Texas

England

Scotland

Texas A & M University

The Rice Hotel Emporium Room

Houston Community College

Free port tax exemption

Sugar Land Center

Moscow Ballet

### Events

1821 William Stafford arrives at Stafford Point, Texas, and establishes a successful plantation that later evolves into Stafford City.

1836 Santa Ana marches his army through the Stafford area on the way from the Alamo to San Jacinto. He burns the town as they are leaving the next day.

1853 First railroad in Texas stopped in Stafford.

1865 Civil War was disruptive on Stafford.

1911-1914 Italian migration to Stafford.

1920's and 1930's Prohibition Years in Stafford

1956 Stafford incorporated.

1963 The Cuban Missile Crisis effect on the 147th Air National Guard Unit at Ellington Field.

1965 Leonard Scarcella writes the first Stafford City Property Tax rolls.

1969 Scarcella elected Mayor of Stafford City (still serving in 2017)

1997 Mayor Scarcella advocates and succeeds in abolishing Stafford City property taxes.

1976 Initiation of the effort to create the Stafford Municipal School District