



Meet Police Chief STEVE GRIFFITH

Serving & Protecting SUGAR LAND

*Written by Carrie Garfield
Photos by Joey Thomas*

He's got the badge, drives a squad car, and runs a top-notch police department. Just looking at him, he seems like your average, everyday police officer. But there's more to Sugar Land Police Chief Steve Griffith than meets the eye. He's a family man with a soft spot for some very special Texas children.

Law Enforcement Expertise

A native Houstonian, Griffith has been at the helm of Sugar Land's Police Department for the past three and a half years. Prior to his current position, he was a police chief for San Marcos, Texas. His impressive resume also includes stints as police chief for the city of West University, as well as experience with the Bellaire Police Department and the University of Houston Central Campus Police.

POLICE CHIEF STEVE GRIFFITH

Snapshot

Family

Griffith and his wife Wendy have two sons, Tim, 24, and Adam, 23

Police Experience

Griffith has 32 years of experience including:

- Police Chief, San Marcos
- Police Chief, West University
- Police Officer, Bellaire PD
- U of H Central Campus Police

Volunteer Experience

Griffith has volunteered with the Texas Special Olympics for 20 years

Favorite Hobby

Furniture building

Community Involvement

Griffith serves on the board of the Fort Bend Council on Substance Abuse and is a member of the Sugar Land Exchange Club

Chief Griffith with his wife Wendy, sons Tim and Adam, and Patricia, Tim's girlfriend



Although he's been in the business for 32 years, a career in law enforcement wasn't always the plan. "I actually started out as an accountant. I worked a job here in Houston and hated it. I couldn't sit still at the desk," says Griffith. "I knew some police officers, and they said I should try this. Unfortunately that was the only forethought that went into it. But I've never been sorry."

Greatest Achievements

With a stellar career under his belt, Griffith has solved many high-profile crime cases, but he doesn't count those among his biggest successes. "What I truly consider to be my biggest achievement as police chief and get the most enjoyment from is seeing the good things my staff does," says Griffith. "For example, my staff came forward with the concept of getting the citizens of Sugar Land more involved in what we do in the police department. As a result, we created the Community Assistance Support Team (CAST) program. We now have CAST cars present at community events, and citizens involved in doing house watches, patrols, etc. That's the kind of success I live for and look for."

A Cause Close to his Heart

Griffith has been involved with Texas Special Olympics for more than 20 years. He started out participating in the Texas Law Enforcement Run for the charity, but eventually his commitment and leadership skills led him to chair the Board of Directors and to co-chair the Texas Summer Games.

“ I have never seen a city that is more superb than Sugar Land, Texas. There's a true commitment to public safety here. It's one of the challenges of the position in that people in Sugar Land have high expectations. That's a good thing. ”

- Police Chief Steve Griffith

Getting to know some of the athletes and their families over the years has had a huge impact on Griffith. "In police work you see some good things, but you also see the dark side of our society. You see what people do to one another and the situations they end up in," says Griffith. "If you're not careful, you get jaded by all the bad over time. What I've found about Special Olympics is that those kids have such heart. They're just so happy to participate. You see them running the track or swimming, and every little success is just a huge success. That has really helped provide me with balance and made me realize that successes happen every day - I just don't always see them."

Where to Find Sugar Land Magazine

Look for Sugar Land Magazine at these fine area establishments.

24 Hour Emergency Room
16000 SW Fwy., #100
Sugar Land, TX 77479

59 Diner
12550 SW Fwy.
Stafford, TX 77477

Best Western Sugar Land Inn
6330 E. Riverpark Dr.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Café Adobe
2329 Hwy. 6 S.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Chick-Fil-A of Greatwood
20010 SW Fwy.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Chick-Fil-A of Rosenberg
24734 SW Fwy.
Rosenberg, TX 77471

Cliff's Old Fashion Grill
17440 W. Grand Pkwy. S.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

CVS Drug Store
2102 Eldridge Rd.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

CVS Drug Store
13829 SW Fwy.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

CVS Drug Store
16515 Lexington Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Hilton Garden Inn
722 Bonaventure Way
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Holiday Inn Express
27927 SW Fwy.
Rosenberg, TX 77471

Kwik Kar Full Service Car Wash
11902 Hwy. 6 S.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

La Quinta Inn & Suites
28332 SW Fwy.
Rosenberg, TX 77471

Lupe Tortilla
15801 SW Fwy.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Ragin Cajun
16100 Kensington #400
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Raising Cane's
1529 Hwy. 6 S.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

Stomping Grounds
15415 SW Fwy.
Sugar Land, TX 77478

The UPS Store
16107 Kensington Dr.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Walgreens
17330 Grand Pkwy.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Walgreens
3902 FM 762
Rosenburg, TX 77469

Walgreens
4711 Sweetwater Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Walgreens
4790 Lexington Blvd.
Missouri City, TX 77459

Walgreens
6120 Hwy. 6 S.
Missouri City, TX 77459



Now Exclusively
at Starbucks!

Sit back, relax, and enjoy a
cup of coffee with your
Sugar Land Magazine.

Pick up Sugar Land Magazine
at these area stores.

19908 SW Fwy.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

4720-A Sweetwater Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

4721 Hwy. 6 S.
Missouri City, TX 77459

5940 S. State Hwy. 6
Missouri City, TX 77459

16098 City Walk Blvd.
Sugar Land, TX 77479



Griffith (second from left) has been involved
with the Special Olympics for over 20 years

Griffith has been in law enforcement for 32 years



A Family Man

Griffith and his wife Wendy have two sons, Tim, 24, and Adam, 23, who both attend Texas State University. "Tim is following in my footsteps. He's wanted to be a police officer since he was three. He'll graduate this May with a master's degree in criminal justice," says Griffith. "Adam is the outdoorsy type and loves biology. He'll graduate next December with a degree in anthropology."

Despite his demanding public career, the Griffiths have always worked hard at staying connected as a family. "We always took the boys along to community events when they were younger," says Griffith. "As a result, our sons have a very service-oriented background."

Even though their boys are away at college, Griffith's wife Wendy says family time is still a top priority. "We're empty-nesters now, so Steve and I try to go out and have breakfast together every day before work. Once the day starts, we're both pulled in different directions with our jobs, so this is our time to be together."

So what does a busy police chief do to relax and unwind? "I build furniture. I truly enjoy it, and it fits with my time schedule," says Griffith. "I can work on something for a weekend, and then not touch it again for a few weeks. The only thing I mess up is the garage."

Sugar Land Proud

Griffith is actively involved in the Sugar Land community. He serves on the board of the Fort Bend Council on Substance Abuse and is a member of the Sugar Land Exchange Club. He's very proud of Sugar Land's low crime rate, and he's working hard to maintain that. "We're blessed here. I tell my staff that all the time," says Griffith. "I have never seen a city that is more superb than Sugar Land, Texas. There's a true commitment to public safety here. It's one of the challenges of the position in that people in Sugar Land have high expectations - that's a good thing." **SLM**

CARRIE GARFIELD is a freelance writer. She is the mother of three boys and resides in Fort Bend County.

FORT BEND FAMILY LAW LEADERS



The attorneys and staff of Travers & Travers are Family Law Leaders offering clients a diversity of skills and utilizing an effective teamwork approach to every family law matter.

We understand the uniqueness of each client's family law situation and are experienced in all aspects of family law litigation from mediation to complex property issues and jury trials.

SHERRIE HAUSSNER TRAVERS

Board Certified, Family Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization

MACK J. TRAVERS

Licensed in Texas and Missouri

ALLISON TRAVERS HAMILTON

TRAVERS & TRAVERS
ATTORNEYS • MEDIATORS



20501 Katy Freeway, Suite 121
(Nottingham Country Building)

www.katylawyer.com

281-492-2166

©2009 Sugar Land Magazine