



## PSNA Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, August 6, 2013 – 7pm

Crowe's Nest Farm

10300 Taylor Lane Manor, TX

Refreshments and important information

Guest Speaker: Dick Peterson – Topic: "Rainwater Harvesting for Landscape Irrigation"

Dick Peterson is a native Austinite and a Manor resident and holds a BBA from (now) Texas State University. After many years of promoting Xeriscape and water conservation as a community volunteer, in 1995 Dick joined the City of Austin Water Conservation Program as the coordinator of Xeriscape, irrigation and rainwater initiatives and rebates. In 2000, he became an Environmental Program Coordinator with the renowned Austin Energy Green Building, specializing in water conservation and residential homebuilding.

Now retired, Dick continues to offer workshops and seminars dealing with rainwater harvesting and landscaping. Dick hosts the Harvested Rainwater section of the long-time green building website [SustainableSources.com](http://SustainableSources.com) as well as his own website, [DickPeterson.com](http://DickPeterson.com). He is a consultant on rainwater and landscape projects as well as residential green construction and remodeling.

---

## Why Do We Celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup>?



America celebrates July 4<sup>th</sup> as Independence Day because it was on July 4, 1776, that members of the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1777, Philadelphians remembered the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Bells were rung, guns fired, candles lighted, and firecrackers set off. However, while the War of Independence dragged on, July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations were modest at best.

When the war ended in 1783, July 4<sup>th</sup> became a holiday in some places. In Boston, it replaced the date of the Boston Massacre, March 5, as the major patriotic holiday. Speeches, military events, parades, and fireworks marked the day. In 1941, Congress declared July 4<sup>th</sup> a federal holiday.

John Hancock was the president of the Second Continental Congress and was the first to sign the Declaration. With its ornate capitals, Hancock's sprawling signature is prominent on the document. Since then, when people are asked for their "John Hancock," they are being asked to sign their names.

Independence Day acquired its unofficial theme song on July 4, 1897, at the Manhattan Beach Music Hall on the eastern end of Coney Island. On that Sunday afternoon, sometime after 4 p.m., John Philip Sousa lifted his baton and cued his band to launch into their latest hit, "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Sousa had not composed it specifically for the holiday, but it has been a marching-band staple on every Fourth of July since 1897.

Sixteen states have a city named "Independence" – including Texas. Independence, Missouri is the largest with 113,288 residents. Do you know where Independence, Texas is located? Can you name the other 15 states that have a city named "Independence"? *For the answers to these questions, see page 2.*

---

The purpose of Park Springs NA is to “improve and maintain the quality of life for residents and protect from environmental hazards within the boundaries of the association”. More information is available on the PSNA website – [www.parkspringsna.org](http://www.parkspringsna.org).

**Answers to the “Independence” questions from page 1.....**

The 16 states that have a city named “Independence” are: California, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

**Where is Independence, Texas located?** It is an unincorporated city in Washington County – approximately 12 northeast of Brenham, Texas. It was founded in 1835. It declined in population when it refused to give right-of-way to the Santa Fe Railroad. The current population is approximately 140.

Source: Wikipedia – the Free Encyclopedia

**Manor City Council Proceedings -**

June 19, 2013 meeting – (1) The city manager reported that he is having weekly meetings with the contractor that is remodeling the “new” City Hall. As of this date, \$100,000 had been spent so far on the 9,000 square foot project. The total cost is \$1.54 million and will include offices, conference rooms, a public area and a combined council chamber and municipal courtroom. The current city hall will be remodeled for use by the Manor Police Department. (2) The City Manager also reported that bids for the TXDOT project at the US Highway 290/Gregg-Manor Road intersection construction will be announced in August. (3) The developer for the Las Entradas North subdivision which is located north of Highway 290 East near the Loop 212/Highway 290 intersection presented information about the plans for the 104 acre tract of land. (4) The developer for the proposed medical building to be located at the entrance to Shadow Glen stated that plans have been drawn for the construction of the 36,000 square feet - 3-story building and is totally leased out.

July 3, 2013 meeting – (1) The City Council re-elected Danny Scarborough as the mayor-pro tem. (2) The Council approved the Manor Chamber of Commerce/Manor Lions hotel occupancy tax application to provide funds for advertising to promote the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Manor Fest to be held October 4-5.

July 18, 2013 meeting - (1) Manor’s recently elected Mayor – Rita G. Jonse was presented a gavel to mark her term of office. The gavel was imprinted with the following inscription:

“ Presented by Speaker Joe Strauss to Rita G. Jonse  
First Female Mayor, City of Manor  
June 5, 2013  
83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature “

**Congratulations Mrs. Jonse!!!**

**Important Information:**

**PSNA Yearly Dues - \$20**

for the fiscal year May, 2013 – April, 2014

Thank you to those members who have paid your 2013 dues.

If you have not yet paid your dues, please mail to:

Park Springs NA  
P. O. Box 1008  
Manor, Texas 78653

Membership dues are used to pay for postage, refreshments, meeting facilities, web site and other expenses. Plus, if you have paid your dues, you receive the monthly PSNA newsletter!!



**Please Note:** Newsletter articles are written by John Williams and Vicki McFarland and do not represent views expressed or endorsed by PSNA.



**PSNA Boundaries** are US 290 on the north, FM 973 on the west, FM 969 on the south, and the Travis-Bastrop county line on the east. Everyone is residing in this area is welcome to join. There is more information on our website - [www.parkspringsna.org](http://www.parkspringsna.org). **Our mailing address** is P.O. Box 1008 Manor, TX 78653.



**Manor Expressway Update:**  
The Decker Lane crossover at Highway 290 will be permanently closed.

**Important Dates to Remember:**

- Mon. Sept 2 – Labor Day
- Sun. Sept 8 – Grandparents Day
- Sun. Sept 22 – First Day of Fall
- Mon. Oct 14 – Columbus Day
- Thurs. Oct 31 – Halloween

**Next PSNA Meeting – Tues. Nov. 5**

**Manor Farmer’s Market** – every Wednesday at Jenny Lane Park – 4pm – 7pm  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Manor Fest** - Fri. Oct 4 – Sat. Oct 5

**Manor ISD at a Glance**

	2003-2004	2007-2008	2012-2013
<b>Enrollment</b>	3,223	5,825	8,134
<b>Demographics</b>			
African American	21.7%	26.8%	23.5%
Hispanic	49.9%	57.5%	62.2%
White	26.6%	13.6%	9.9%
Other	1.8%	2.2%	4.5%
Economically Disadvantaged	62.0%	67.9%	79.4%
Limited English Proficient	19.2%	26.0%	30.9%



Source: Manor ISD Community Presentation – June 25, 2013

**MANOR ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADOPTS \$88.6 MILLION BUDGET**

*By Abby Siedenstang, MISD Communication Coordinator*

**Manor, TX**—On June 26, 2013, the Manor ISD Board of Trustees adopted an \$88.6 million budget, for the 2013-2014 fiscal year that begins July 1, 2013.

This budget, which is expected to result in over \$400,000 in surplus revenues, includes a district wide pay increase of three percent on average and over 20 new teaching positions to accommodate student growth, relieve class sizes, and increase elective course offerings, particularly in the areas of Career and Technical Education and the Project Based Learning initiative.

Dan Arrigona, Manor ISD’s Executive Director of Financial Operations, said, “This approved budget directly reflects strategic decisions made by the Board of Trustees and district leadership to move Manor ISD forward and achieve district goals.”

82% of the approved funds directly support district campuses and a majority of the operating expenses are dedicated to payroll, reflecting Manor ISD’s goal of recruiting, developing, and retaining highly effective staff.

The district’s current tax rate of \$1.515 — \$1.04 for maintenance and operations and \$0.475 for debt services — on \$100 valuation, is expected to remain unchanged, but will go to the board for approval in September, following the release of official appraisal values.

Manor ISD was also pleased to announce to the Board that they expect to end the 2012-2013 fiscal year with an estimated fund balance of \$15.8 million.

## Austin Zoning Commission requires Trash Company to Submit New Application

The Austin Zoning and Platting Commission on July 16, 2013 voted to require Allied/Republic to submit a new application for grading at the southwest intersection of US 290 and SH 130, a site the company said would eventually become a recycling center/trash operations facility. In addition, Allied/Republic must apply for and obtain rezoning to allow any such land use.

By a vote of 4-3, the Commission upheld an appeal by a neighboring landowner to deny an extension of time for Allied/Republic to submit paperwork to obtain a permit to begin grading even before the zoning process took place. According to reports, the grading would remove up to 52 feet of dirt.

At an earlier meeting on June 18, 2013, Commission Chair Betty Baker spoke strongly and plainly, saying she had heard the land in question was annexed by the city as a courtesy, and will be leased by the city as a dump. “I can't deny it, or prove it, but I've heard it. And I'm not the only one that has heard it,” said Ms. Baker. “We talk about transparency in government. And if that is the situation, there is no transparency in government. We're being used or misused.”

Ms. Baker, who has been Chair of the Commission for several years, told her fellow commissioners: “Sometimes you wonder why you are here, and this is one of those times. We know without a doubt, the process for cases coming to us: zoning, subdivision, site plan. This one is coming to us absolutely backwards,” saying she felt the appeal should be granted and the land should go through the process “as we expect and require of other cases.” She added that granting the appeal was the only way to get the case into the land-use public hearing process.

Additional information about the project is available at [www.peoplenottrash.com](http://www.peoplenottrash.com). The location has been identified in the “Imagine Austin” plan as a “Town Center”.



## “Hot Weather” Checklist for July-August



- Outside work this time of year should be confined to early morning hours (before noon) or after 6:00p.m. If at all possible, avoid being out in the sun during the hottest part of the day (2pm – 5pm). If this isn't possible, be sure to protect yourself from harmful ultraviolet rays with sunscreen and wear a broad brimmed hat. Take frequent rest breaks and drink lots of water.
- Water lawns and gardens only when needed, giving a thorough soaking rather than frequent light sprinklings. Be sure to obey lawn watering schedules. Minimize water loss by doing lawn watering in the early morning when the humidity is high and winds are generally lighter. Automatic sprinkler systems should be monitored and adjusted for maximum coverage.
- Check your lawn mower. Be sure the blade is sharp. With hot weather here, the mower blade should be in its highest position.
- Pets can become dehydrated quickly – so have plenty of fresh, clean water available at all times. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun and be careful to not over-exercise them.
- Know the signs of overheating which include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse. They can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomiting along with an elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees. Animals with flat faces like Pugs and Persian cats are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. Never leave them in a parked vehicle.

Sources: *Austin Gardener* – July, 2013 Newsletter and Webb MD – July 13, 2013

