



Pyramidal Cottage – 209 N. Lexington

July 17, 2014 Issue

## **PSNA Quarterly Meeting**

Tuesday, August 5, 2014 – 7pm

Crowe's Nest Farm

10300 Taylor Lane

Manor, Texas

Refreshments and important information about the Manor area

Guest Speaker: Terri Meyers

Ms. Meyers is an architectural historian who founded Preservation Central, Inc. and who does research and assessments of sites for historic significance to aid in preservation, historical designation, and general documentation. She lives in Travis County and has recommended that the downtown area of Manor be designated a "historic district", which was the reason for the Resources Survey.

Topics for the meeting:

- \*\*Learn about the history of Manor and see examples of Victorian-era houses and turn of the century buildings that were part of a cultural resources survey conducted in 2007.
- \*\*Get updates on road construction, new home construction in area subdivisions and the new businesses that are coming to town
- \*\*Come and meet your neighbors!

Examples of Victorian-era homes in Manor. How many do you recognize?



Bloor House – 709 N. Lexington



Gregg House – 401 N. Lexington



Christian Church Parsonage – 205 E Eggleston



## Park Springs Neighborhood Association.....

The purpose of Park Springs Neighborhood Association 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).

Officers for 2014 include:

President John Williams	Vice President Maura Phelan
Treasurer Rod Castilleja	Secretary Vicki McFarland
Webmaster Sharon Bramblett	Past President Tom West

**PSNA Yearly Dues are \$20** for the fiscal year May, 2014 – April, 2015.



Thank you to those members who have paid your 2014 dues.

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

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

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



## Manor ISD News

1. Voting in the Manor ISD School Board election held on May 10, 2014 resulted in the naming of 2 new school board members and the return of an incumbent board member. New members are Johnny Velasco and Elmer Fisher while incumbent Melinda Fiebig won reelection. All will serve three year terms. Long-time Board President Desiree Cornelius Fisher, who had served on the board for the past sixteen years lost her bid for re-election.
2. Voters overwhelmingly supported the \$124.9 million bond proposal that was held on May 10 in addition to school board member positions. The bond was packaged as a single proposition to include funds for construction of a new middle school, a new elementary school, and high school improvements, as well as designs for another elementary campus. The proposition also includes funds for land purchase for future school sites and the purchase of school buses. Passage of the bond election will not result in an increase of school property taxes.
3. At a special called school board meeting on May 27, trustees brought back Kevin Brackmeyer as Superintendent. With new trustees on the board, the board amended the agreement which had resulted in Mr. Brackmeyer’s resignation early this year. Brackmeyer returns under exactly the same contract that he had before.
4. Anna Cortez, a twelve year resident of Manor and the owner of Zetroc Kaffee House in Manor, was appointed by the school board to fill the unexpired term of former trustee Adriana Gutierrez who resigned her seat in May.
5. New administrative personnel recently hired by the District include Dr. Debra Cantu Hester who was named the Chief Academic Officer. She has prior experience with Austin ISD and was most recently the regional director for Agile Mind, which provides programs to improve student achievement. Deborah Ewald was named the principal at Bluebonnet Trail Elementary School. She served as principal at BTE from 2003-2009. Kerry Gray was selected as the principal at Decker Elementary School. She was previously an elementary principal for the Sapulpa Public Schools in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.
6. Manor ISD has joined forces with Child, Inc. to offer a full day Pre-K Head Start program for eligible children ages 3 or 4 years old. Registration for the new program will be held on Tuesday, July 22 from 10am-5pm at Oak Meadows Elementary School located at 5400 Decker Lane in Austin. Call Child Inc. at (512) 451-7361 for more information.
7. The first day of school is Tuesday, August 26, 2014.



**PSNA Meetings for 2014:**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays at 7pm @ Crowe's Nest Farm

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

**Important Dates To Remember:**

Monday, Sept 1 - Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept 23 - 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Fall

Monday, Oct 13 - Columbus Day

Sunday, Nov 2 - Daylight Savings ends – “fall back one hour”

Tuesday, Nov 4 - Election Day

**City of Manor News**

**June 4, 2104 City Council meeting –**

1. City of Manor Associate Judge, Honorable Don Cannon administered the oath of office to recently elected City Councilmembers Gil Burrell for Place 2 and Sharon Snowden for Pace 4. *See related article on page 4 concerning the delayed swearing in of Place 6 Council member Jeff Turner.*
2. Outgoing Councilmember Danny Scarbrough was recognized for his tenure on the council.
3. The council voted to waive all building permit fees associated with the construction of the new Shadow Glen Elementary School because construction costs to build the campus were voted upon in a 2007 bond election. The City did not have a fee structure in place until 2009. Manor ISD will pay for all building inspections associated with the project.

**June 18, 2014 Council Meeting –**

1. Rebecca Davis was elected Mayor Pro-Tem for a one year term.
2. It was announced that 14 new water meters were installed in May, 2014. Based upon the number of water meters, Manor’s current population is 7,144.
3. The Municipal Court issued 371 violations with 49 dismissed. 259 warrants were issued.
4. The Manor Police Department responded to 834 calls in May, 2014 (compared to 841 for May, 2013.) 449 traffic citations were issued and officers responded to an average of 30 calls per day.
5. 54 new housing permits were issued in April, 2014 and 65 permits were issued in May, 2014 which means over 100 new homes will be constructed in the next few months.
6. The City of Manor received \$52,802 for sales tax revenue for purchases made in February, 2014. This accounts for approximately ten days revenue from the February 19<sup>th</sup> opening of Wal Mart. \$79,826 was received for the month of March, 2014.
7. The Council voted to request proposals to implement automated meter reading technology. There are approximately 2,700 meters currently in use that take up 48 miles of waterline. Presently, it takes a City of Manor employee approximately 10 days to manually read the water meters and it takes 3 days for another employee to enter the water usage for each account. It was noted that approximately 14 million gallons of water are used each month by City of Manor water customers.
8. The Council voted to form a committee comprised of 3 council members to design an evaluation for City Manager Steve Shanks. Council members will discuss the performance review at the July 16 Council meeting.

Manor Community News is Manor’s weekly newspaper and published its first issue on July 4, 2014. It features classified ads and coverage of local news and events. Subscriptions are available for \$52 per year. Call (512) 523-4161 to subscribe.



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**Burrell, Snowden Sworn In as Council Members;  
*Turner is censured for Delaying Taking Office***

Recently elected Manor city council members Gil Burrell and Sharon Snowden were sworn into office as scheduled on June 4, the first regular council meeting following the canvass of the May 10 election.

Council member-elect Jeff Turner declined to take office at that meeting, saying “I’ll be holding off for a while, because of my wife’s one year anniversary’s employment with the City of Manor”. At the July 2 city council meeting, the Council voted unanimously 7-0 to allow him to take office late, but to censure him for using the delay to circumvent the city charter. Mr. Turner is expected to be on the dais as a council member at the July 16 regularly scheduled meeting.

According to the Manor city charter:

The term of office of the mayor and council members begins on the first regular council meeting following the canvass of the election. [Article 5.11]

No spouse of a member of the city council or city manager may be or remain employed by the city, “provided that such prohibition shall not apply to any person employed full time for a period of at least twelve months or more” prior to the member taking office. [Article 4.04]

Council member-elect Turner has served as Mayor previously. He was also a member of the commission which drew up and proposed the charter, signing it in August, 2007.

More complete details were reported in the July 4 issue of the *Manor Community News* and the July 12 issue of the *Austin American Statesman*.

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**TxDOT Claims Intersection “Works Just Fine”**

*Tell them if you disagree!*

PSNA members have often complained about safety problems at the intersection of Old Route 20 and FM 973—the “T” intersection near Eternal Faith Baptist Church, just south of the new Wal-Mart. Only traffic heading west on Old Route 20 has a stop sign.

A PSNA member recently wrote to the Texas Department Of Transportation and received this response:

“We recently completed a traffic study at this location and have investigated into the feasibility of an “all-way stop” warrant analysis and it did not meet necessary requirements. Currently, the WB Old US 290 is stop controlled. This intersection works just fine as the primary movement is SB FM 973/FM 212 right-turns onto WB FM 212/Old US 290 and also EB FM 212/Old US 290 left-turns onto NB FM 973/FM 212. There is no valid reason to make it an all-way stop and thereby decreasing the efficiency of the intersection and adding to the delay on the approaches having the major volumes. We have recently installed a “Cross Traffic Does Not Stop” sign on WB Old US 290 to provide additional notice to the drivers.”

If you want to complain about this intersection, please contact:

email: David.Baroi@txdot.gov

phone: (512) 832-7014

mail: David R. Baroi, Ph.D., P.E.

Lead Traffic Engineer – North

TxDOT - Austin District

7901 North IH 35

Austin, Texas 78753

Please mention any accidents or near-accidents you have seen, and describe how long you have had to wait at this intersection.



**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 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.

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