

THE PATRIOT EXAMINER



March 2011—Volume 1, Issue 1

Texas Tea Party Patriots PAC

The Woodlands' "Bridge to Nowhere"?

A fiscally questionable proposal to renovate the Grogan's Mill Road pedestrian bridge has been presented to The Woodlands Township Board. The proposal was submitted by the First Baptist Church and is supported by the Grogan's Mill Village Association (GMVA).

The proposal has been added to the list of 2011 budget requests according to Township Board Chairman Bruce Tough. The cost is estimated at \$180,000.

Proponents of the bridge renovation argue that beautifying the bridge could improve business. However more fiscally responsible actions besides spending tax dollars could be employed to improve business, such as reducing taxes.

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"Enlighten the people, generally, and tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like spirits at the dawn of day."

Thomas Jefferson

TCEQ Approves Injection Well

At a recent meeting of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, commissioners voted in favor of giving Texcom a permit to operate a Class 1 injection well at FM 3083 and Creighton Road.

The meeting was held before the 20-day period when testimony could be introduced from the Texas Railroad Commission that Texcom does not have mineral rights. Chairman Bryan W. Shaw stated that Railroad Commission testimony had no bearing on his agency.

State Representative Brandon Creighton and State Senator Robert Nichols spoke to the TCEQ in opposition to the permit.

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Local Spotlight: Peggy Hausman

The Woodlands Township Board member Peggy Hausman spoke before the Texas Tea Party Patriots PAC on January 25, discussing issues facing the community.

Currently, The Woodlands Township is classified as a "special purpose" district, located within an unincorporated part of Montgomery County and within the extra-territorial jurisdiction of Houston.

With voter approval The Woodlands Township pays an annual fee to the City of Houston in exchange for guarantees that The Woodlands Township will not be annexed by the City of Houston. County taxes pay for road and bridge maintenance. Law Enforcement is, also, the responsibility of Montgomery County, but is substantially enhanced in The Woodlands Township at resident expense.

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"A republic . . . a government which derives all its powers directly or indirectly from the great body of the people."

James Madison

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The Woodlands' "Bridge to Nowhere"?

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While the GMVA supports the bridge renovation, there is not yet any documentation showing that the project is supported by the community at large.

In addition, considering the bridge renovation has been added to the list of budget requests, there has been no indication that funds are available for such a previously unplanned project or which capital expenditure may be cut to accommodate this addition. Moreover, such a project could compromise the structural integrity of the bridge, requiring extensive tests that could result in the spending of even more taxpayer funds.

At the latest Board meeting, it was decided to conduct further research as to the bridge ownership and potential expenditures before making any final decisions.

Rep. Eissler Questions Mandate on Illegals

In an interview with Evan Smith of *The Texas Tribune*, Texas State Rep. Rob Eissler (R-The Woodlands) stated that he will not support a bill requiring school officials to check the immigration status of prospective students.

Eissler said he will not support "another mandate" because Texas officials are required to provide education to anyone who "shows up." Eissler asked, "What's it going to serve?"

It is not unreasonable to question the social and economic impact of illegal immigration on our school and health care systems. And if the question is asked, we must take action on the answer. We call on Rep. Eissler to quantify these costs.

When asked about the *Tribune* interview, Carole Bleakney, Rep. Eissler's Chief of Staff, stated, "This was a quote taken out of context. . . Rep. Eissler has always been for strengthening our borders. At that time he had not read the bill but plans to support it."

Rep. Eissler, District 15, can be contacted via telephone at 512-463-0797 or 281-681-9655.

TCEQ Approves Potentially Dangerous Injection Well

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Opponents of the permit argue that many old oil and gas wells are now connected to the drinking water aquifers supplying Conroe, The Woodlands and many unincorporated parts of Montgomery County. Thus drinking water could be threatened, which could decrease property values and cause serious personal harm.

On March 8, the Railroad Commission will decide whether Texcom will be granted another hearing regarding mineral rights despite the commission's original ruling that Texcom had no rights to the land. Those opposing the injection well are pressuring the Commission to maintain its original position in refusing mineral rights to Texcom.

Voter ID: Finally Passes Texas Senate

The Voter ID Bill (Senate Bill 14) has passed the Texas Senate. It will now be debated and voted upon in the Texas House of Representatives.

Voter ID has come up before Texas legislators several times in the past, but has not yet been enacted. This time Governor Rick Perry has added this issue to his list of emergency legislative items.

With a Republican supermajority in the Texas legislature, the bill should pass quickly so legislators can take up more complicated issues such as budgeting and redistricting. The Voter ID Bill (House Bill 16) has been referred to committee. This bill and other legislation will continue to be monitored.

Source: <http://www.texastribune.org/texas-newspaper/texas-news/the-brief-top-texas-news-for-jan-21-2011/>

Are We Better Off?

America's founders believed that limited government best secures individual liberty and economic prosperity. Below are some examples in which excessive government intervention has confirmed the founders' belief by doing more harm than good.

The cost of West Texas crude oil has risen 136 percent per barrel since 2009 according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

The overall price of commodities has risen 11 percent since 2009 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Local Spotlight: Peggy Hausman

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In 2014, the people can vote on the type of government The Woodlands Township should have in the future. It could become incorporated, remain unincorporated or become a hybrid form of government. To make the best possible decision, Hausman stressed the importance of the Township Board conducting research and sharing the findings with their constituents so they are able to make an informed decision when the time to vote arrives. In particular, she stressed the importance of making decisions that will maintain property values. She encouraged vigilance in reviewing Board Member attendance and voting records and how our tax dollars are being spent. As the state's rainy day fund has been available to help it through difficult financial times, so, too, said Hausman, The Woodlands should establish appropriate reserves.

Peggy Hausman, Bruce Tough and Nelda Blair are running for re-election this year with remaining Board members running in 2012. The Woodlands residents must review the board members performances to make educated choices in the upcoming elections, leading up to and including the important 2014 vote to determine the new type of government for our area.

The Woodlands Township Board conducts two meetings each month—a workshop at 9 a.m. on the third Thursday at the Township Board Chambers, 10001 Woodloch Forest Drive, Ste. 600, and a general board meeting at 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday at the Township Service Center, 2201 Lake Woodlands Drive. More information can be obtained at www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov.

Watching Washington

The 112th Congress convened in January. As a result of the November elections, the House of Representatives now has a sizeable Republican majority while the Senate retains a smaller Democratic majority.

The House Republicans quickly moved to honor a campaign pledge by passing a bill repealing the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (i.e., "Obamacare") by a vote of 245 to 189. All Republicans voted in favor, while all but three Democrats voted against.

The repeal failed in the Senate by a vote of 51 to 47. House Republicans responded by voting to defund Obamacare in this year's government appropriations. Senate Democrats will most likely reject this as well.

In the Senate, a resolution changing the filibuster rules was defeated on January 27. Historically the filibuster has been used by minority parties to block the passage of legislation by majority parties. Current Senate rules require 60 of the 100 senators to approve ending a filibuster and proceeding on passage. The proposed change would have required only 51 senators to approve ending a filibuster.

Party leaders Reid and McConnell instead agreed that Republicans would block fewer legislation and nominations in exchange for having more input in amending legislation. A bill may also be introduced reducing the number of presidential appointments subject to Senate approval by nearly one-third.

Spending will be the next priority, as the House and Senate have agreed to a temporary resolution that will fund the government for two weeks starting March 4 while including \$4 billion in spending cuts.

Outrageous Government Actions

Governments are empowered by the consent of the governed. This includes holding elected officials accountable for mismanagement and waste. With this in mind, here are some items of which the people must be aware.

The Woodlands Boat Renovation

The Woodlands Convention and Visitors Bureau recently paid \$2,000 for a Water Cruisers survey from Nov. 14 to Jan. 21. Although 72 percent surveyed had ridden the water cruisers only once and 69 percent were generally dissatisfied in some form or another, Bureau President Nick Wolda is planning to spend \$150,000 renovating the boats.

Source: *The Villager*, 1/3/11.

Obamacare Real Estate Tax

After 2012, real estate transactions will be subject to a 3.8 percent sales tax. This will disproportionately harm retirees seeking to downsize their homes. This provision was part of the Affordable Care Act of 2010, but what it has to do with health care remains in question.

Source: <http://www.gop.gov/blog/10/04/08/obamacare-flatlines-obamacare-taxes-home>.

Upcoming Texas Tea Party Patriots PAC Events

Wine and Cheese Reception

March 25, 2011, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Guest speaker, John Fund, will be featured at a Wine and Cheese Reception in the Tea Party PAC office located at 9391 Grogan's Mill Road, The Woodlands, TX. Cost is \$50 per person and is tax deductible. Check out our website for ticket information.

www.texaspatriotspac.com

Tax Day Tea Party

"Organizing to Restore the American Dream"

The annual Tax Day Tea Party will be held on April 16 at Woodforest Stadium, The Woodlands, TX. Guest speakers will include Herman Cain, CEO, Businessman; Anita MonCrief, activist and former ACORN whistleblower; Ben Struesand, Chairman, Texas Chapter, Americans for Prosperity. More details will be forthcoming; be sure to visit the PAC website for more information at www.texaspatriotspac.com.

General Meetings

General meetings are held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Tea Party PAC office located at 9391 Grogan's Mill Road, Ste. A-4, The Woodlands, TX. More information can be obtained on the PAC website.

www.texaspatriotspac.com



The Church Accountability Project is a grassroots movement to restore America's churches to their historic role. Those interested can contact the Texas Tea Party Patriots PAC at www.texaspatriotspac.com for more information.

A Christian Manifesto

Thursday, March 10, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

"Where have the Bible-believing Christians been in the last 40 years?" asks Francis Schaeffer in this strikingly relevant presentation from 1982. "Where have we been as we have changed to this other consensus and all the horrors and stupidity of the present moment have come down on our culture?"

Texas Tea Party Patriots Core Values

- ◆ Uphold the Constitution
- ◆ Uphold Free Markets
- ◆ Uphold Limited Government
- ◆ Uphold Fiscal Responsibility

Who We Are

The Texas Tea Party Patriots PAC seeks to organize, educate, and inform citizens for the purpose of securing public policy consistent with our core values. We will unify and exercise through all legal means available to us, our power to effect the election of local, state, and federal candidates who espouse our core values.



Why study the Founding Fathers? To understand an author's work, one must first understand the context through which the author created the work. Our Founding Fathers were unique and gifted individuals. In creating the Constitution, they gave us a document that offered Americans personal freedoms, freedom from massive government intervention, and the freedom to create a free-enterprise culture.

Our Constitution class will meet each Monday and Friday, from 10:30 am to 12:30, beginning on Monday, February 28 and concluding on Friday, April 8.



The Texas Tea Party Patriots PAC headquarters are located at 9391 Grogan's Mill Road, Ste. A-4, The Woodlands, Texas 77380

