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# Guidry News Gazette

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Monday, May 10, 2010

## New Leadership at Houston METRO

*Executive Director Frank Wilson is Out – George Greanias named Acting Director*

*The Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Directors on Friday accepted the resignation of Executive Director Frank Wilson and voted to approve an agreement with former city controller George Greanias to serve as acting director while a search is conducted for a new president and CEO.*

“About six years ago, I arrived here on a wave of change at METRO,” Wilson said, listing some of the accomplishments of his tenure, including new buses, park and ride lots and the beginning of light rail. “My legacy here is 3,000 employees we call METRO employees. That’s the legacy, that’s what enables us to achieve what we do.”

“Thank you very much for the chance to help my city and my region on an issue that I think all have been working on for so many years,” Greanias said.



“We are now on the cusp of seeing really great movement and great progress.”

“It is a new day for openness and transparency at METRO,” said Houston Mayor Annise Parker. “Now that a new board and chief executive officer are in place, I am committed to working hand-in-hand with the new leadership and the

FTA to achieve the next phase of light rail in Houston.”

Photos and a recording of the meeting are posted on [GuidryNews.com](http://GuidryNews.com).

### Galveston City Council

Galveston City Council last week voted unanimously to reallocate \$991,024 in 2005-2009 Community Development Block Grant funds for various projects.

Police Chief Charles Wiley was called before the city council again to discuss off-duty police officers working at the Sandpiper Cove Apartments. He was supported by the Galveston Municipal Police Association.

“The Galveston Police Department does not racial profile,” said Jimmy de los Santos, president of the GMPA. “Never has and never will.”

A complete recording of the meeting in Streaming Video will be posted on [GuidryNews.com](http://GuidryNews.com).

### Houston City Council

Houston City Council last week voted to confirm the appointment of Barbara E. Hartle as presiding judge and director of the Municipal Courts Judicial Department.

The city council voted to confirm the appointment of Berta Alicia Mejia as associate judge of the Municipal Courts Judicial Department; and to

confirm appointments and reappointments to the Planning Commission. Appointed to the commission were Christopher B. Amandes, Blake Tartt, III and Keiji Asakura. Reappointed to the commission were Mark A. Kilkenny and Medardo "Sonny" E. Garza.

### Pasadena City Council

Pasadena City Council last week voted unanimously to approve the first reading of an extension of an agreement with Harris County for Park and Ride Bus Service from Pasadena Town Square Mall through May 2011.

 Mitchell Historic Properties (409) 763-5806 <a href="http://www.mitchellhistoricproperties.com">www.mitchellhistoricproperties.com</a>	Offering retail, office space in historic downtown Galveston

### Port Arthur City Council

Port Arthur City Council last week voted 5-1, with Mayor Deloris "Bobbie" Prince opposed, to table action on a memorandum of understanding with the Southeast Texas Plant Manager's Forum, and the forum's committee, the Port Arthur Industrial Group.

### Beaumont City Council

Beaumont City Council last week voted 4-2, with Jamie Smith and Mayor Pro Tem Gethrel 'Get' Williams-Wright opposed, to deny a request by

the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 399 to carry over the accumulation of vacation leave from year to year for firefighters James Landrum and Frank Neal.

Landrum and Neal were both injured on duty. Landrum's previous vacation time was lost while he was out on injury leave.

### Bayou Vista City Council

Bayou Vista City Council last week voted unanimously to hire Justin Lovell as the city's facilities supervisor on a contract basis.

### Texas City City Commission

The Texas City City Commission last week voted unanimously to approve the purchase of 5.073 acres of land and improvements at 911 Highway 146 North for a total of \$689,000.

The property is the former Lincoln car dealership.

### Clear Lake Shores Council

Clear Lake Shores City Council last week voted unanimously to direct the city attorney to develop an ordinance regarding inhabitable houses.

Building Official Jack Fryday requested an ordinance to require all houses to be made habitable or be demolished.

"There are a number of houses in the city that were damaged by Hurricane Ike and have not been repaired," Fryday said. "These houses are not structurally damaged and are not in danger of collapsing and don't pose a danger to anyone. They are not habitable because nothing has been done to the inside or they have been gutted and left in that condition since the storm."

### Kemah City Council

Kemah City Council last week voted unanimously to appoint Wayne Lockett to the Emergency Services Board.

### Friendswood City Council

Friendswood City Council last week voted 6-1, with Michael Barker opposed, to authorize city staff to request construction bids upon the completion of the design of the Stadium Lane Project.

The Stadium Lane Project will allow for on-street parking during school and other community events.

### Webster City Council

Webster City Council last week voted unanimously to award a bid of \$354,000 to RJ Construction Company for mechanical equipment replacement of a secondary clarifier at the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### Seabrook City Council

Seabrook City Council last week voted 6-1, with Garry Mack opposed, to award a \$548,692 bid to Digna Corporation for the repair and replacement of the City Hall air conditioning system.

### Galveston County Court

Galveston County Commissioners Court last week voted unanimously to approve three items related to the Alteration of the Galveston County Causeway Railroad Bridge, including an order apportioning the cost for the project, award of the contract to Cianbro/Brasfield Gorrie II/Joint Venture in the amount of \$80,143,944, and "other matters as needed" for the project.



Sid Bouse and Caren Plummer of the Bolivar Peninsula Blueprint group appeared before the commissioners court.

"I just wanted to say 'thank you' from the Bolivar Peninsula," Bouse said. "We are real good at raising hell, but we really do appreciate the work the judge and the commissioners have done for the peninsula."

Photos and audio excerpts from the meeting are posted on [GuidryNews.com](http://GuidryNews.com).

### Jefferson County Court

Jefferson County Commissioners Court last week voted 3-2, with Eddie Arnold and Mark Domingue opposed, to approve a request by Criminal District Attorney Tom Maness to attend the National District Attorneys Association Conference.

### Dickinson ISD School Board

The Dickinson Independent School District Board of Trustees last week voted unanimously to award a \$7.482 million contract to Bass Construction, Inc. for construction of the Transportation and Child Nutrition Services Facility.

### Galveston County Pilots

The Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Ports of Galveston County last week voted unanimously in favor of rate adjustments requested by the Galveston-Texas City Pilots Association.

Chair Vandy Anderson thanked the pilots and their customers for reaching agreement on most issues. The only point of contention that kept Royal Caribbean Cruise Line and the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association from dropping their objection is that the new agreement requires a second pilot on cruise ships longer than 850 feet.

Photos and audio excerpts from the meeting are posted on [GuidryNews.com](http://GuidryNews.com).

### UTMB at Victory Lakes

There was a large turnout for the dedication of the University of Texas Medical Branch Specialty Care Center at Victory Lakes last week.

"We are very excited to finally have this center open," said UTMB President Dr. David Callender.

"As you know, we have been thinking for a long time about how we could have a more significant presence

in this area to serve our many patients who live in League City and the surrounding community."

## Deaths

**Sandra Elizabeth Lain Raftis** (69) passed away at MD Anderson Hospital on April 27.

**Lynn McNeely** of Galveston, passed away Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at her residence.

**Mamie Cristelli** (85) of Galveston, passed away Wednesday, April 5, 2010, at her residence.

**Joseph Gail (Joe) Alessi** (75) of Galveston, passed away Tuesday, May 4, 2010, at his residence in Santa Fe.

**Patricia May Bosworth** (85) of Galveston died Tuesday, May 4, 2010 surrounded by her loving family.

**Ollie Elizabeth Freeman** (70) passed away on Sunday May 2, 2010 at her residence.

**Tanz Nicole Day** (31) died on Sunday May 2, 2010, at Mainland Medical Center in Texas City.

## Meetings and Events

### Monday, May 10

1:30 Jefferson County Commissioners Court  
6:00 La Marque City Council  
6:00 La Porte City Council  
6:00 Pearland City Council Workshop  
7:00 Nassau Bay City Council  
7:00 Shoreacres City Council  
7:30 Pearland City Council

### Tuesday, May 11

9:00 Brazoria County Commissioners Court  
10:00 Harris County Commissioners Court  
10:00 Pasadena City Council  
12:00 Pasadena Independent School District  
1:30 Houston City Council  
1:30 Beaumont City Council  
5:45 Friendswood Independent School District Board of Trustees  
6:00 League City City Council  
6:00 Dickinson City Council Workshop

6:30 Hitchcock Independent School District Board of Trustees

7:00 Dickinson City Council

7:00 Morgan's Point City Council

7:30 Texas City Independent School District Board of Trustees

### Wednesday, May 12

9:00 Houston City Council

9:30 Galveston County Commissioners Court

12:00 Kemah City Council Joint Meeting with Kemah Community Development Corporation

5:30 Galveston College Board of Regents

6:30 Galveston County Mayors and Councilmembers Association, Jamaica Beach City Hall

6:30 Seabrook City Council

7:30 Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village

### Thursday, May 13

12:00 Houston Downtown Management District

4:00 Galveston City Council

5:00 Houston Independent School District Board of Education

6:30 Friendswood City Council

7:00 Santa Fe City Council

7:00 La Marque Independent School District Board of Trustees

7:30 Brigadoon, Beaumont Community Players at McFaddin-Ward Auditorium

7:30 Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village

### Friday, May 14

7:30 Brigadoon, Beaumont Community Players at McFaddin-Ward Auditorium

8:00 Money, Marbles & Chalk, The Grand 1894 Opera House

8:00 Over the River and Through the Woods, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse

8:00 Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre

### Saturday, May 15

8:30 West Galveston Island Property Owners Association, Moody Gardens Hotel

2:00 Money, Marbles & Chalk, The Grand 1894 Opera House

7:30 Brigadoon, Beaumont

Community Players at McFaddin-Ward Auditorium

8:00 Money, Marbles & Chalk, The Grand 1894 Opera House

8:00 Over the River and Through the Woods, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse

8:00 Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre

8:00 Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village

### Sunday, May 16

2:00 Money, Marbles & Chalk, The Grand 1894 Opera House

2:30 Over the River and Through the Woods, Bay Area Harbour Playhouse

2:30 Romantic Comedy, Island etc at The Strand Theatre

3:00 Arcadia, Main Street Theater - Rice Village

## About Guidry News Service

Guidry News Service is headquartered in Midtown Houston at 4001 Fannin, Suite 4432, Houston, Texas 77004; with offices in Downtown Beaumont and Downtown Galveston.

Guidry News Service is seeking a seasoned marketing representative with a proven track record to help manage accounts in the Greater Houston Area.

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