



A Trip Through Time Magoffin Home Preserves Past, Looks to the Future

In the center of the Magoffin Historic District sits a gateway to another time. A true El Paso treasure, the Magoffin Home was built around 1875 and is only eight blocks from San Jacinto Plaza and two blocks from the new Federal Court-house.

The home is an example of a territorial style adobe building. It is the only house museum in El Paso, is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas State Historic Site. It was built by Joseph Magoffin, an early El Paso business and civic



leader who was born in Mexico. Family members lived in the home for 111 years until 1986. It is a single story structure composed of three wings arranged in a U-shaped plan.

In January 2008, the Magoffin Home was transferred

from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the Texas Historical Commission. This change has led to increased staff, longer operating hours, building repairs, a new volunteer program and plans for the future.

Foremost among these plans is the development of a new visitor's center, extensive building

repairs, new programs and renovations to the building and grounds. The visitor's center will also include a café and expanded gift shop.

"We are very excited as we look to the future and ways that Magoffin Home can become a



more vital part of this community," said Leslie Bergloff, site manager. "Our goal is to preserve and interpret important facets of the history and heritage of El Paso, but to do this in an entertaining way by letting our visitors experience an authentic historic environment."

Along with daily guided tours, there are several annual events at the Home, including the summer Victorian Tea in May, the Candlelight Evening Tours in October, and the December Open House. The grounds are open for picnics and are also a great place to enjoy a workweek lunch. Guided tours are given on the hour.

Where: 1120 Magoffin Ave.

When: Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$3, 12 and under free; special events vary

Phone: (915) 533-5147

Online: www.thc.state.tx.us or

www.elpasotexas.gov/downtown

Sign Savings

1 Stop Bail Bonds on Myrtle is one of the latest Downtown businesses to receive assistance from the reduced fees incentive program.



Visionaries in Preservation — Our Past & Future

El Paso is one of three communities selected for 2009 to participate in a community outreach and historic planning program sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission.

Visionaries in Preservation (VIP) seeks to empower Texas communities to strengthen their local historic preservation programs through proactive planning, training, and technical assistance. Through the remainder of the year, a series of monthly meetings will convene to sharpen the focus of the City of El Paso's existing historic preservation strategies and initiatives. Specifically, the local VIP program will improve the planning of economic and community development by integrating innovative solu-



**VISIONARIES
 IN PRESERVATION**

tions leading to the proactive use of historic preservation tools. The program works through planning and a process known as "visioning" — forming a shared image of the future and a related action plan by asking four questions: Where are we now? Where are we going? Where do we want to be? How can we get there?

"Our greatest needs are to implement design guidelines for historic districts which don't already have them, increase awareness of our rich historic assets and involve residents in improving these assets," said Dr. Troy Ainsworth, City historic preservation officer. The next meeting will be May 28 at 6 p.m. in the Americas Conference Room, 5th floor of City Hall.

May Events

Alfresco! Fridays — Artists of various musical styles perform in the summer series.

Where: Arts Festival Plaza (in front of the Art Museum)

When: Fridays @ 5:30 p.m., May 15-Oct 31.

Info: (915) 541-4942

Exhibit — Maze & Motion, an interactive exhibit of dozens of mazes, simulators and optical illusions.

Where: Lynx Exhibits, 300 W. San Antonio

When: May 16 - Aug. 30, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$10; children 6-11 \$6; military, students & seniors \$8

Info: 533-4330 or www.lynxexhibits.com

Presentation — "Manuel Acosta: Inspiration and Joie de Vivre" A panel discussion with various artists who knew the local artist.

Where: El Paso Museum of History

When: May 17, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Cost: Free

Info: (915) 351-3588

Miss El Paso USA — Official preliminaries to the Miss Texas USA, Miss Texas Teen USA, Miss USA and Miss Universe Pageants.

When: June 5-6 @ 8:00 p.m.

Where: Abraham Chavez Theatre

Cost: \$10

TIRZ Board of Directors

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Business Spotlight: Pixy Studios

Boutique photography has flashed into Downtown. Pixy Studios, owned by three former "brain drain" El Pasoans opened in December at 305 E. Franklin Ave.

Located next to the Big Bun Hamburger and Gardner Hotel icons, the studio offers a full range of personalized photography and graphic design services.



"We do everything from preproduction including set design, photo shoot, and post production including retouching and special effects," said co-owner Marisa Montoya. In addition to the more traditional photography services, the studio can also do short films and videos to include short commercials.

All owners had originally left El Paso only to return and open their business. "All three of us have backgrounds in photography or film," said

Montoya. Pixy Studios is also a family business.

Montoya's partners are her brother, David Montoya, and cousin Sonia Himel-spach.

The bulk of Pixy's business has come from senior portraits and school teams.

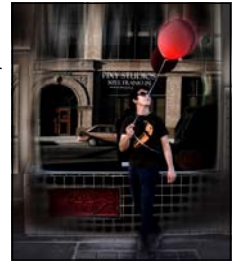
"We offer a free fun portrait for our school teams since we feel that everyone should get a picture, regardless of whether they purchased a package or not," said Montoya.

Pixy is also planning a number of unique events as part of their Summer Photo Series. First up is the "Mini Fashion Photoshoot" for 2010 high school seniors, to be followed with the "Trash the Dress" event for newly wed brides or quinceneras.

Where: 305 E. Franklin

When: Mon - Sat, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Info: www.pixystudios.com or (915) 203-1466



Property Highlight: 100 Stanton Tower

Stanton Tower is one of the premier office buildings on the El Paso market. With the largest floor area of any high rise in El Paso, it offers a number of standout features including 24/7 on-site security and access to every major communications carrier. Space from 758 square feet to 20,987 square feet is available. For more information contact Best Real Estate at (915) 533-4901.

To feature a Downtown building in *el centro*, send an email to rosalesv@elpasotexas.gov or call (915) 541-4670.

Meet the Team



Ernesto C. Gamboa

Senior Economic Development Specialist

Ernesto Gamboa joined the City's Economic Development Department in November 2008 after working as the general manager of a local technology start-up company. He is a graduate of Burges High School and has degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy and UTEP. Previously, he worked at Frito-Lay as a production supervisor, Best Real Estate as a commercial real estate agent, taught entrepreneurship at UTEP and currently does consulting work for the Camino Real Angels Investment Network.

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