

Bond

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Manord had a history of working as a handyman for Donald Smith, officials said.

A friend found the Smiths Aug. 28 after he hadn't heard from them and went to check on them.

Manord has been in jail since Aug. 29 stemming from an unrelated incident. He was arrested on a warrant charging felony battery, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to records from the Martin County Clerk of Court's office.

McNicholas read the new charges against Manord — two counts of first-degree murder and one count of aggravated burglary in connection with the homicides and noted he will be held without bond.

The neighborhoods Thursday

No one answered the door at Manord's listed address in a 55-and-over, mobile home community in the 5400 block of Southeast Jack Avenue — less than a 3-mile drive from the Smith residence.

Neighbor Jeff Alexander, 63, said Manord's arrest surprised him "very much."

"When I saw the address my first thought was ... he must live in the mobile home park," Alexander said. "It never dawned on me that it was that mobile home."

Alexander said there was law enforcement activity at the home two



Betty Coughlin, of Port Salerno, learns that accused killer Johnny Joseph Manord lived in a mobile home on her street Thursday in Port Salerno. "I'm surprised but I thought there was something funky going on all the time," Coughlin said of the nearby home. Manord has been in jail since Aug. 29 on charges of felony battery, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia, and was charged Wednesday with two counts of first-degree murder and one charge of aggravated burglary in connection to the murders of Donald and Lorraine Smith.
PHOTOS BY LEAH VOSS/TCPALM



A mobile home on Southeast Jack Avenue in Port Salerno is the listed address on an arrest affidavit of accused killer Johnny Joseph Manord. "I have seen police cars be there at least 2-3 times per week," said neighbor Jeff Alexander.

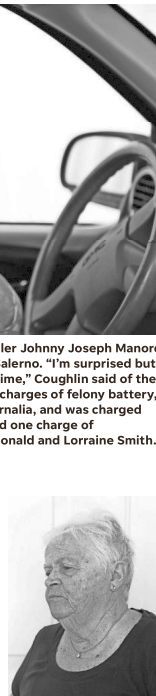
to three times a week.

Betty Coughlin, 80, lives next to Alexander, and said it's been a quiet community.

"There's nothing goes on around here," Coughlin said.

She said she was surprised Manord lives in the community.

"But I thought there was something funky going on all the time, and I kept saying to Jeff (Alexander) I don't



Sandra Cramer is a neighbor of murdered couple Donald and Lorraine Smith.

know what's going on down there," Coughlin said.

According to 19th Judicial Circuit Chief Assistant State Attorney Tom Bakkedahl, Manord accepted a negotiated plea deal. Prosecutors will not seek the



Johnny Joseph Manord, charged with two counts of first-degree murder of Donald Smith, 81, and his wife Lorraine Smith, 80, and one count of aggravated burglary, is escorted out of the Martin County Sheriff's Office by Detective David Yunjay on Wednesday in Stuart.

death penalty, and instead, he will serve three consecutive life sentences. Bakkedahl said Manord confessed to the killings and described them in detail.

Some Southeast Hull Street residents said the arrest put them at ease.

"We finally got some sort of resolve, so that's comforting," said 63-year-old Dee Mick. "It's a sad, sad set of events, and now knowing how they actually died ... it was brutal."

Sandra Cramer, 78, lives next door to the Smiths, and said she was familiar with Manord.

"He's a handyman. He worked for them (the Smiths), and he worked for me. He did odd jobs," Cramer said. "He was a very good handyman ... No matter what you ask him for, he'd do it."

Cramer said she noticed the last couple of times he did work, he'd leave or go to his car.

"He would either pull away or he'd sit in his car and then he'd come

back at the door and he'd say, 'Could you give me another \$20 or \$40? My wife's not well. I need medicines.'" Cramer said.

Cramer said Manord was a good worker, and whatever he asked for, he earned.

"Then he got to the point where you could see a change in him," she said.

She said she had suspicions about Manord, who has previous battery convictions.

"To be honest with you, I think we all kind of expected it was him," Cramer said. "You have something in your mind that tells you that's not right."

Martin County Sheriff William Snyder said Manord entered the Smiths' home, hit them both over the head with a glass bowl and cut their throats.

He took \$700 from the couple and their Lincoln sedan. Officials said he bought crack cocaine and returned to his home.

"There is no power on earth that can undo the horrifying events that occurred in Rocky Point on Aug. 26," Snyder said Wednesday. "However, in some measure, justice has been done; Johnny Manord will never draw a free breath for the rest of his life."

'Never a good explanation'

Assistant Public Defender John Hetherington worked with prosecutors for several days to strike a deal to keep Manord off death row.

"When (Chief Assistant State Attorney) Tom Bakkedahl agreed to three consecutive life sentences, that took death off the case as a possibility," he said. "That was what concerned me."

Asked why Manord killed the couple he said he intended to rob, Hetherington said, "There's never a good explanation."

When you get to the heart of it, the thing that precipitated all that is usually meaningless, he said.

"That's what's terrible about it. It's so arbitrary," Hetherington said.

"Who would think that in little Rocky Point in a nice neighborhood, for an 81-year-old man and an 80-year-old woman ... could be the subject of a murder?"

"But is it any different than most (murders)? Not necessarily. They are all terrible whether they are gang-related, drug-related, money-related ... it's that same linear path that you scratch your head and go 'what was going through their mind?'"

"It's just off the rails." Staff writer Melissa E. Holsman contributed to this report.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners will conduct public hearings on September 29, 2020, beginning at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the items may be heard, to review the following items:

1. AN ORDINANCE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT 20-01, HOUSING PROPERTY, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE MARTIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY AND APPLICABILITY, PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
2. A RESOLUTION OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING APPLICATION TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICT FROM RT, MOBILE HOME SUBDIVISION DISTRICT TO AGRICULTURAL, RANCHETTE DISTRICT OR THE MOST APPROPRIATE ZONING DISTRICT ON 5 ACRES AT 7715 S.W. 30TH STREET, SOUTH OF S.W. MARTIN HIGHWAY.
3. AN ORDINANCE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT 20-05, HOUSING PROPERTY, TEXT AMENDING THE TEXT OF CHAPTER 6, HOUSING ELEMENT, OF THE MARTIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN, MARTIN COUNTY CODE, PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND APPLICABILITY, PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, COORDINATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
4. Comprehensive Plan Amendment 19-19, Public at Christ Fellowship: A Future Land Use Map change from Rural Density Residential (up to 1 unit per 2 acres) to Residential Estate Density (up to 1 unit per acre) on 321 acres, located at 10205 SW Point Whitney Road.
5. Comprehensive Plan Amendment 20-04, Public at Christ Fellowship Text: A request for a site-specific text amendment to the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan regarding residential lot sizes.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. The meeting will be held in the John F. and Rita M. Armstrong Wing of the Blake Library, 2351 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34986. Written comments may be mailed to: Paul Schilling, Director, Martin County Growth Management Department, 2401 SE, Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34986. Copies of the items will be available from the Growth Management Department. For more information, contact the Growth Management Department at (772) 288-5495.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34986, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meetings or hearings of any board, committee, agency, council, or advisory group, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

