

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

The Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitors Center celebrated its 10th anniversary on June 28th after Tropical Storm Cindy necessitated postponement of the event. The Texas Historical Commission reports our state's \$65 billion tourism industry brings 220 million visitors, the majority of whom come to experience destinations that have retained their historic character. Congratulations to our friends at the Visitor Center, and thank you for promoting our history!



Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitors Center Logo  
Credit: Ben [J. Rogers Visitor Center website](http://www.jrogersvisitorcenter.com)

Thank you to all of our members for your time and service in preserving our history.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair

### VOLUME 2017, ISSUE 4

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### JULY, 2017

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Jefferson County Fast Facts
- \* Beaumont Main Street

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

**10/12/1886**

Date of hurricane which destroyed all but 2 of 77 homes in Sabine Pass and killed 86 people, including entire families. The storm swept homes off their foundations and carried people and animals as far as 25 miles away.

**1845**

Year John J. French, merchant and tanner, built his home and store with a tannery nearby. Early settlers came to "French Town" to trade tallow, hides, corn, and beef for shoes, harnesses, salt, coffee, tea, and other items.

**1923**

Year Temple Emmanuel was built under the leadership of Rabbi Samuel Rosinger. The first recorded Jewish services in Beaumont were held on Yom Kippur in September 1887.

## JCHC TIDBITS

- Jefferson County has received congratulations from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior for being a Certified Local Government and partner in the Federal preservation program since March 22, 2012.
- The JCHC will receive recognition from Commissioners Court for receiving the 2016 Distinguished Service Award at the Monday, July 17th Commissioners Court meeting.
- Kudos to Steve Lewis for two recent articles in the Beaumont Enterprise by Pelham, L. (2017, July 2). "Coffee Pot Collection Percolates" and Teitz, L. (2017, June 18) "Local Native Chronicles Region's History with Art Exhibit".

## JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2017

July 17, 2017	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX
September 20, 2017	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX
November 15, 2017	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX

## VOLUNTEER HOURS AND MEMBERSHIP

Any work in the preservation or promotion of Jefferson County History may be counted toward your volunteer hours. JCHC meetings and travel time to and from meetings also count as volunteer hours. Members are reminded that at least 50 hours of volunteer work per year is required of each member.

Also with the number of hours, JCHC needs a general description of work performed, for example: 3 Hours – Marker Survey.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 409-835-8701 or contact Linda via email at [hstcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us](mailto:hstcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us)

## PRESERVATION PARTNERS

Beaumont Heritage Society  
Beaumont Landmark Commission  
Port Arthur Landmark Commission  
Texas Historical Foundation  
Beaumont Main Street  
Museum of the Gulf Coast

# TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



Photo Credit: <https://www.tshaonline.org>

This well known historical organization, Texas State Historical Association (TSHA), began in 1897, and its [mission](#) is to “foster the appreciation, understanding, and teaching of the rich and unique history of Texas and, by example and through programs and activities, encourage and promote research, preservation, and publication of historical material affecting the state of Texas.”

Publications of TSHA include the [Southwestern Historical Quarterly](#), the Texas Almanac, and the [Handbook of Texas Online](#).

TSHA hosts the Texas Talks - Webinar Series, an educational program for members designed to allow engagement with Texas history scholars and experts. In addition to current scheduled presentations members can view archived programs in their digital library. The next webinar in the series is scheduled for July 10th, at 6:00 p.m., [WWI and the Texas Doughboys](#).



Photo Credit: <http://texasalmanac.com/frontpage>



Texas Talks—WWI & the Texas Doughboys

Photo Credit: <https://www.tshaonline.org/education/distance-learning>

Another engaging project of TSHA is the [Texas Day by Day](#) app which allows interested Texas history enthusiasts to view related articles by the date the events occurred in history.



Photo Credit: <https://www.tshaonline.org>

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION NEWS

- The Texas Historical Commission's Main Street Program was recognized by The National Main Street Center as the winner of its "Innovation on Main Street" awards for the Celebrate Main Street campaign which uses innovative social media tools to highlight the 89 cities in the program.
- THC's Texas Main Street Program [announced the launch](#) of a new web application, [DowntownTX.org](#), an online building inventory for Texas downtowns which is designed to connect potential investors to historic properties, and, if successful, will bring much needed reinvestment dollars to downtowns across the state while helping to preserve historic buildings.
- [A 1936 Texas Centennial Marker](#) in Llano County commemorating a battle between American Indians and settlers in 1873, was damaged by vandals and covered with graffiti. Conservator Robert Marshall, working with THC, was able to repair the damage and restore the marker.
- [The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission](#) is working to help finance the costs of replacement or restoration of the Texas Centennial Markers.

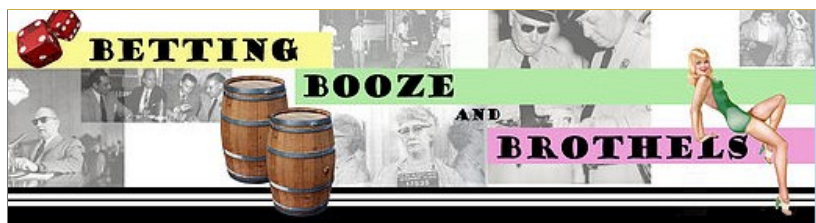
City of Beaumont  
1936 Centennial Marker  
Photo Credit: [JCHC Marker Booklet](#)

Description: City of Beaumont, Named in Honor of Mary Dewleigh Borlace Warren Beaumont by Her Husband, Henry Millard Who Laid Out the Town in 1835 on a Site Known as Tevis's Bluff, Incorporated 1838





## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS



Museum of the Gulf Coast

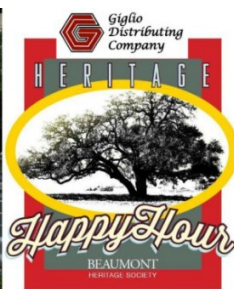
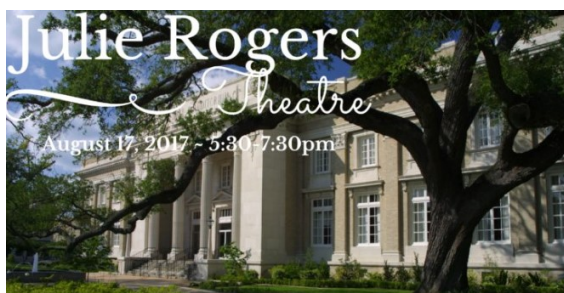
May 6- August 26, 2017—Betting, Booze and Brothels

A long-awaited exhibition created by the Museum on crime and vice in Texas and Louisiana based on the book by Laura O'Toole and Wanda Landrey deals with the history of gambling, bootlegging, prostitution, and government corruption in this area from Prohibition to the James Commission (1960s). Credit: [Museum of the Gulf Coast website](http://MuseumoftheGulfCoast.org)



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: [MuseumoftheGulfCoast.org](http://MuseumoftheGulfCoast.org)



Heritage Happy Hour

Photo Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](http://BeaumontHeritageSociety.org)

### Beaumont Heritage Society

Heritage Happy Hour August 17, 2017

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Did you know the lovely Julie Rogers Theatre was once Beaumont City Hall? Join us, in partnership with the City of Beaumont, at this spectacular historic landmark built in 1928, and learn how the building was renovated and re-purposed in 1982 into the performing arts theater we have today. Heritage Happy Hour is always FREE to members and \$10 for non-members 21+. The Julie Rogers Theatre is located at 765 Pearl Street, in downtown Beaumont.

Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](http://BeaumontHeritageSociety.org)

### McFaddin-Ward House Museum

July 13, 2017 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Free Lecture: Separate But Equal Art

Join us July 13th for a lecture on the history of artist co-ops in Houston in the 1930's. The city had a white group of artists who met and worked cohesively in their own space. African American artists formed one of their own. Randy Tibbitts presents this fascinating history of the two separate but parallel groups that shaped Houston art into what it is today.

Randy Tibbitts is a retired Rice University librarian and one of the most avid collectors of early Houston art in the city.

Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](http://McFaddin-WardHouseMuseum.org)



McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Photo Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](http://McFaddin-WardHouseMuseum.org)

**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

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Linda McMahon, Coordinator



*To preserve and  
promote history within  
the County.*

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We're on the web!  
[http://co.jefferson.tx.us/  
Historical\\_Commission/](http://co.jefferson.tx.us/Historical_Commission/)

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Hotel Beaumont Ballroom  
Photo Credit: Theresa  
Goodness



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2016 - 2017

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

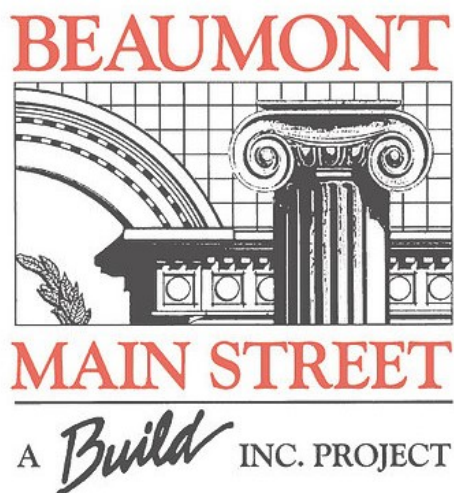
1st Vice-Chairman, Les McMahon

2nd Vice-Chairman, Paul Prosperie

Secretary/Treasurer, Linda McMahon

Brenda Jackson

## BEAUMONT MAIN STREET



Beaumont Main Street has available [online](#) a wonderful walking tour of downtown Beaumont with photographs and historical facts about forty buildings ranging from the Jefferson County Courthouse, various churches and Temple Emmanuel, office buildings, banks, Jefferson Theatre, the Tyrrell

Historical Library, and museums.

Also available on their website is a [list](#) of downtown properties available for sale or lease.

Information on cultural events scheduled at downtown venues such as the Jefferson Theatre, Julie Rogers Theater, the Event Centre, or the Beaumont Civic Center can be located at [discoverBeaumont.com](http://discoverBeaumont.com)