

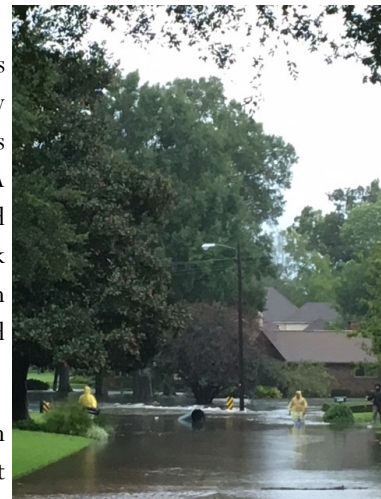
CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Along with 59 other counties declared disaster areas by Governor Abbott after Hurricane Harvey, Jefferson County has entered into the recovery phase after the storm. Debris piles are being picked up, insurance adjusters and FEMA representatives are reviewing claims. Roofers, electricians and other trades are hard at work trying to put our homes back together. Our local officials, first responders, and the Cajun Navy rescued thousands of people from flood waters, and many continue to work tirelessly in recovery efforts.

While the devastation and massive flooding from this storm will be long remembered, so too will our community spirit and the goodwill of friends and neighbors who have banded together to help one another.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Hurricane Harvey flooding on Evangeline in Beaumont's west end.
Photo Credit: Michelle Farnie

VOLUME 2017, ISSUE 5

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NOVEMBER, 2017

Special points of interest:

- * Jefferson County Fast Facts
- * Mini-Museum Exhibit: Larry D. Baggett

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

9/24/2005

Date Hurricane Rita made landfall between Sabine Pass, TX and Holly Beach, LA. The fourth most intense hurricane ever recorded, Rita caused \$12 billion in damages and caused 120 deaths in 4 states.

22 Feet

Number of feet of storm surge recorded in Sabine Pass on 9/13/2008 from Hurricane Ike. This was the highest ever recorded storm surge at Sabine Pass and the greatest storm surge ever seen with a Category 2 hurricane.

60.58 inches

The top rainfall record in the United States from any tropical cyclone. The record is held by Nederland as a result of rainfall from Hurricane Harvey. In Groves 60.54 inches fell in the same time period.

JCHC TIDBITS

- Tyrrell Historical Library remains closed at this time for repairs to extensive damage from Hurricane Harvey.
- Two historical markers have been lost at River Front Park in Beaumont due to flooding of the Neches River from Hurricane Harvey. The markers were for *Nancy Tevis* and *Beaumont, Lumber Mill City of the Nineteenth Century*. Thanks to Steven Lewis for alerting JCHC to this loss.
- Due to Hurricane Harvey, the annual October mini-museum exhibit to celebrate Texas Archeology Month has been moved to November 1 – December 15, 2017.
- The Jefferson County Historical Commission is proud to announce that State Regional Archeologist Dr. Kerry Nichols will be speaking in Beaumont about the prehistory and archeology of this area, including McFaddin Beach and the recent dune restoration project. The talk will be held on March 8, 2018 at the McFaddin-Ward House Visitor Center. The Jefferson County Historical Commission and the McFaddin-Ward House are co-sponsors of the event.

UPCOMING JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2017

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

PRESERVATION PARTNERS

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

BEAUMONT HERITAGE SOCIETY'S PUMPKIN WALK AND HAUNTED HALLOWEEN TOUR



John Jay French House Haunted Halloween Tour
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, the Beaumont Heritage Society hosted a Pumpkin Walk and Haunted Halloween Tour at the John Jay French House Museum.

The event included a pumpkin carving and decorating contest for both adult and child categories. The numerous entries showed creativity, ingenuity, and in some cases, a really scary Hallow-

een flair. The activities included a Haunted tour of the John Jay French House, where the actors used darkness, flashlights, and dramatic storytelling to great effect. The tour was followed by a hay-ride to the French family's cemetery on property during which visitors were treated to apparitions, grave diggers, and a scary blacksmith. Children were then invited to Heritage Hall to decorate their own small pumpkins. The evening was enjoyed tremendously by all attendees, and Beaumont Heritage Society is to be congratulated on another successful event highlighting our area's history.



Pumpkin Walk at John Jay French House Museum
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness



Pumpkin Decorating at
Heritage Hall
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness



Hayride at John Jay French House Museum
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION NEWS

The Texas Historical Commission's website has an abundance of information regarding [disaster re-sources for historic properties](#). The information is broken down by types of properties; homes, businesses, nonprofits, and public properties.

In light of our recent experience with Hurricane Harvey, we can all appreciate having a compilation of these helpful resources which include the following:

[Hurricane Recovery and Preservation Tips](#)

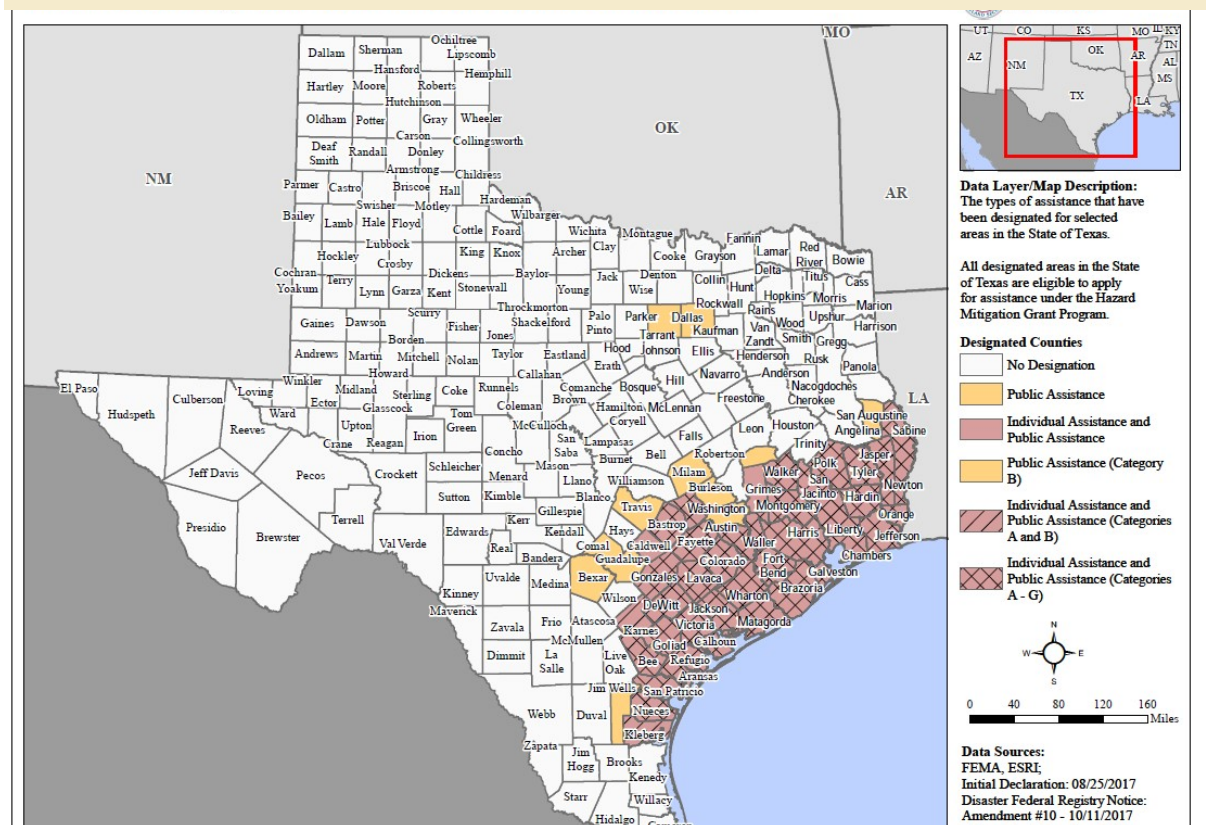
[Disaster Resources](#)

[After the Flood: Emergency Stabilization and Conservation Measures](#)

If any of our members has information about an endangered historic property damaged in the storm, please contact the JCHC office, so we can notify THC.

Hurricane Harvey FEMA Texas Disaster
Declaration as of 10/11/2017

Credit: [FEMA.gov](#)



AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast

September 16, 2017

No Man's Land: East Texas African Americans in WWI

No Man's Land: East Texas African Americans in World War I is a multimedia project—traveling exhibition, mobile phone app, and online research tool—that draws attention to the First World War experiences of East Texan African Americans. Created initially to commemorate the centennial of World War I, it will document the thousands of black Texan men who served as commissioned and non-commissioned officers, infantrymen, cavalrymen, military policemen, mechanics, doctors, dentists, veterinary assistants, lumbermen, chauffeurs, laborers and stevedores, and in a variety of other roles.

Credit: [Museum of the Gulf Coast website](http://MuseumoftheGulfCoast.org)



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org

Beaumont Heritage Society

November 16, 2017

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us November 16, 2017 for a special Heritage Happy Hour at the Texas Coffee Company! This family run company began in Beaumont in 1921 when Charles J. Fertitta, Sr. recognized the demand for a good quality coffee. In 1926, Mr. Fertitta recapitalized the company by forming a partnership with R. C. Maceo and Joseph S. Serio. In 1968, Texas Coffee Company became the first coffee company in the United States to begin packaging coffee in vacuum-packed foil bags ~ now the industry standard. Come learn how an investment of \$1800 and a Ford Model-T truck were the beginnings of this beloved Beaumont manufacturer and distributor of Seaport Coffee, Texas Coffee, and TexJoy Spices. Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](http://BeaumontHeritageSociety.org)



Heritage Happy Hour

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

McFaddin-Ward House Museum

December 3 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

McFaddin Christmas Photo Op 2017

Have your photo taken on the Grand Staircase of our lovely home. The McFaddin Ward family loved pictures! Now you can too at our Annual Christmas Photo Op! Guests are allowed two photos only. Please wait near the front of the house and be completely ready for your photo when your number is called. Please do not use any cosmetics, hairspray, etc. in the house or on the porch. Our staff photographer will take your picture using your camera. After your photo, feel free to tour the grounds and visit the Carriage House.

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 McMahan, Coordinator



*To preserve and
promote history within
the County.*

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

Chambers House photo
taken at the 2017
Spooktacular Event on
October 26th

Photo Credit: Steven Lewis



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2016 - 2017

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

2nd Vice-Chairman, Paul Prosperie

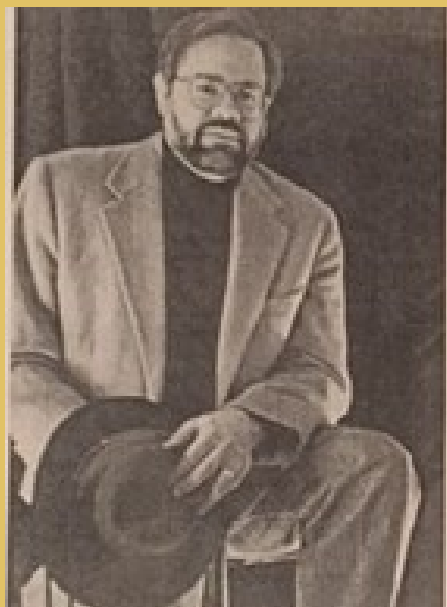
Secretary/Treasurer, Linda McMahan

**JCHC MINI-MUSEUM
LARRY D. BAGGETT EXHIBIT**



JCHC Mini-Museum Display of
Larry Baggett's Historical Prints
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

Larry D. Baggett (1956-2015) was born in Beaumont and was a long-time area educator. Through his extensive research and detailed drawings of historic buildings in Southeast Texas, Larry has left a lasting legacy. His sister, Linda Baggett McLemore, has set up a scholarship in his honor and is selling prints and card sets of Larry Baggett's artwork to fund the scholarship. If you are interested in obtaining prints, please contact the JCHC office for Linda Baggett McLemore's contact information.



Larry D. Baggett
Photo Credit: Brochure
Introducing the Artwork of Larry
D. Baggett