

# JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2022, ISSUE 1

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

It is bittersweet to say goodbye to Linda McMahan as our JCHC Coordinator. Linda has walked with us through hurricanes, floods, winter storms, and a COVID-19 pandemic in the last fifteen years. Through it all she has been gracious, kind, helpful, and a genuine pleasure.

I wish to personally thank Linda for her help and friendship, and wish her well in her much deserved retirement. May you enjoy yourself tremendously, my friend!

Thank you to our members for your time and service.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Resolution honoring Linda McMahan  
Credit: Jefferson County Commissioner's Court  
Minutes, December 14, 2021

### VOLUME 2022, ISSUE 1

#### In this issue:

Friends of THC Real Places 2022 Conference	2
JCHC Coordinator Retires	3
TSHA News	4

### JANUARY, 2022

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Jefferson County Fast Facts
- \* Courthouse Mini-Museum Exhibit
- \* Area Museum Online Resources

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

**\$115.00**

Amount of monthly salary allocated to the Collier's Street Ferryman, Lee Richardson, from the Road and Bridge Fund, Precinct No. 1 in February of 1922. The Hickory Street Ferryman, S. Cleveland was paid \$178.00.

**\$2.75**

Amount of daily flat rate compensation offered by county to St. Therese, Hotel Dieu and St. Mary hospitals for hospitalization of indigent patients in 1942. The offer was refused and a counter-offer of \$3.00 per day was made by the hospitals.

**01/04/1957**

Date of a resolution by the Police Jury of Cameron Parish awarding contracts for the construction of the Sabine Lake Bridge and Causeway with the condition Jefferson County did the same within sixty days.

## FRIENDS OF TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION REAL PLACES 2022 CONFERENCE



Presented by the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission in partnership with Phoenix I Restoration and Construction, Ltd., the conference provides opportunities to learn from and network with professional staff, volunteers, and supporters of historic preservation and heritage tourism. This includes county historical commissions, Main Street managers and board members, historic preservation officers and design

review boards, architects and engineers, historians, archeologists, curators, interpreters, managers of museums and historic sites, as well as Texas Historical Commission staff, Texas Heritage Trail Regions, and other partner agencies.

Credit: [Friends of THC website](https://www.friends-thc.org/)

## UPCOMING JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2022

Meetings to be held at Noon at the Agriculture Auditorium, 1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200, Beaumont, TX 77701. (All meetings subject to cancellation under state and federal COVID-19 guidelines.)

- Wednesday, January 19, 2022
- Wednesday, March 16, 2022
- Wednesday, May 18, 2022
- Wednesday, July 20, 2022
- Wednesday, September 21, 2022
- Wednesday, November 16, 2022

### 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  
Tyrrell Historical Library

## JCHC COORDINATOR, LINDA MCMAHEN, HONORED BY COMMISSIONER'S COURT ON HER RETIREMENT



Judge Jeff Branick congratulates Linda McMahan on her retirement at the December 14, 2021, meeting of Commissioner's Court.

Photo Credit: Michelle Farnie

On December 14, 2021, at a meeting of the Jefferson County Commissioner's Court, Linda McMahan, JCHC Coordinator, was honored with a resolution signed by all the members of the Court. She also received an American flag flown over the Jefferson County Courthouse and a watch featuring the county seal.

Linda has served the citizens of the county for 15 years and 7 months of her life. In April of 2006, Linda began her career with the county as the Coordinator for our historical commission and also served as Records Manager for departments reporting to Commissioner's Court. During that time she has devoted

herself to our mission to preserve, protect and promote the rich history of Jefferson County.

Linda has been the warm voice on the phone to citizens calling our office. She has been the steady hand keeping us all on our toes, all while making each person she met feel important and loved.

While we will miss Linda McMahan as our JCHC Coordinator, she will continue to serve on the commission. Our citizens will benefit from her dedication to historic preservation, and we will continue to enjoy our friendship with Linda and her warm smile.

Many thanks to Linda McMahan for her service and dedication, and may she enjoy a long, happy and healthy retirement!

Linda McMahan, JCHC Coordinator  
and Theresa Goodness, Chair, accepting  
Distinguished Service Award on behalf of JCHC in 2013

Photo Credit: Paul Prosperie



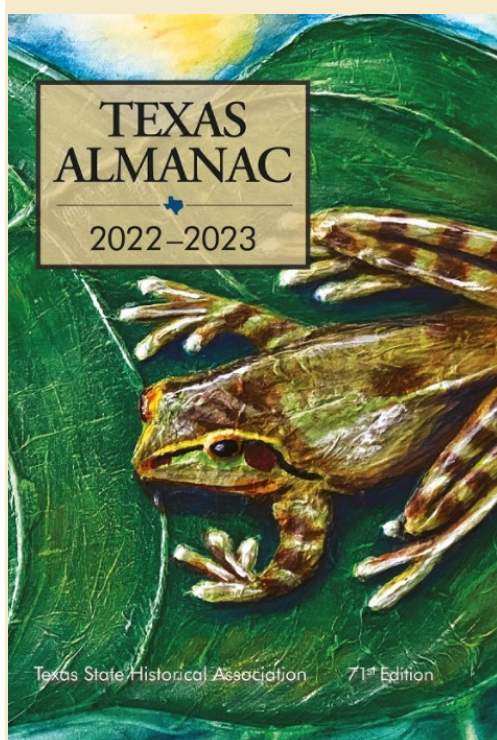


## TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWS

### **TSHA's 126th Annual Meeting to be held in Austin in 2022**

TSHA will hold its 126th Annual Meeting at the AT&T Hotel and Conference Center in Austin, TX on February 24-26, 2022.

Credit: [TSHA Annual Meeting website](#)



### **Texas Almanac, 2022-2023**

**The source for all things Texan since 1857 has a new issue!**

The Texas Almanac is the premier reference for everything Texas. The entire book is revised with the latest information for every edition, including the 254 county maps and our population estimates for every Texas town. The new issues features greatly expanded articles on the wildlife found throughout the state, with an updated and revised list of mammals and all new lists of birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

Find detailed chapters on the history, weather, recreation, sports, politics, and arts and culture in the Lone Star State.

Credit: [TSHA Publications webpage](#)

### **January 18 Join us for a *Texas Talks* webinar**

#### **Inside the Texas Revolution: The Enigmatic Memoir of Herman Ehrenberg**

Herman Ehrenberg wrote the longest, most complete, and most vivid memoir (published in Germany in 1843) of any soldier in the Texan revolutionary army. After nearly two centuries, a definitive translation is now available. Inside the Texas Revolution: The Enigmatic Memoir of Herman Ehrenberg is a product of painstaking work by translators Louis E. Brister and James C. Kearney, as well as the volume's editor, James E. Crisp, who has spent much of the last 27 years solving many of the mysteries that still surrounded Ehrenberg's life, dispelling the myths, mistakes, and even outright lies (some made by Ehrenberg himself) that accrued in previous versions of the text.

Join Dr. Crisp, Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University, a noted expert on the Texas Revolution, and Mr. Ryan Schumacher, Managing Editor, TSHA Press, as they discuss Ehrenberg's book, a testament by a young Texan "everyman" who presents a laudatory paean to the Texan cause.

Registration is free for TSHA members, and non-members can attend the virtual event for a donation of \$5.

Credit: [TSHA website](#)

## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Museum of the Gulf Coast

#### **The 7th Annual Community Art Contest 2022 “Open Theme”**

Submission deadline: January 15th

This year’s art contest is Open themed. Any medium will be accepted. For the first time, Adult art and adult photographs will be judged in separate categories.

Credit: [Museum of the Gulf Coast website](#)



Museum of the Gulf Coast

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



Spindletop Gladys City Gusher Re-enactment

Photo Credit: [Spindletop Gladys City website](#)

### Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum

January 8, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the 121st anniversary of the Spindletop gusher.

Credit: [Spindletop](#) Gladys City Boomtown Museum website

### McFaddin-Ward House Museum

January 13, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.

Lecture Description: Randy Lemmon will discuss regional gardening practices. Randy is well known in our area through his Garden Line program on KTRH radio in Houston. For over 25 years and with 1.4 million listeners, he has guided Southeast Texans on the best gardening practices for our area. Author of popular gardening books such as Gulf Coast Gardening, Golfer’s Guide to Gardening, and New Decade Gardening: A Gulf Coast Guide, Randy offers help to those with and without green thumbs.

Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum](#)



McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Photo Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](#)

**JEFFERSON  
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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/)



Headstone of Seaborn Berry,  
who died in 1881, a lone  
gravesite located on a tank  
farm at Port Neches  
Photo Credit: JCHC Archives

Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2021 - 2022

Chair, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Bruce A. Hamilton

2nd Vice-Chairman, Don Smart

Treasurer, Linda McMahan

Secretary, Jen Trenbeath

**JCHC MINI-MUSEUM EXHIBIT  
THE CCC COMMUNITY BUILDING AT  
TYRRELL PARK AND THE CAROLINE  
GILBERT HINCHEE HOUSE PROJECT**

The original buildings at Tyrrell Park were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the middle 1930s. The largest of the surviving structures is referred to as the Recreation or Community Building. The city had allowed this important building to fall in disrepair and was in danger of having its roof removed and used as an open-air pavilion. The Beaumont city council decided that it was worth saving and \$2.1 million were earmarked for the project. The plan was to restore the structure to its former appearance with a few modifications. In August 2020, a project to renovate it began with the goal being for it to be used as a nature center. Most of the work has been completed, but the building is far from ready for its intended purpose. While the exterior work is complete, the building is empty since the proposed exhibits have not been built.



CCC Community Building at Tyrrell Park  
in 2013

Photo Credit: Steven Lewis

The Hinchee House on September 3, 1924



Photograph of Caroline Gilbert Hinchee  
House on September 3, 1924

Photo Credit: Bruce Hamilton archives

The Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Project's mission is to preserve a piece of Beaumont's rich history while affording U.S. Veterans the chance to embrace educational opportunities in historic preservation and community service.

For additional information on the Jefferson County Historical Commission, please call 409-835-8701 or email [histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us](mailto:histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us).