

JEFFERSON COUNTY LINE

2026 Fall Edition



It's time for Annual Enrollment!

October 1-15, 2026

2027 Benefits Information

What You Need To Know

- There are many benefit options for 2027! Please read all of the information in your Annual Enrollment Guide.
- Starting October 1, 2026, log into Employee Navigator, <https://www.employeenavigator.com/> to review coverage, make changes, or enroll. Click 'Login' and use the credentials you used last year when creating your account or click 'Register' and use the company identifier: JefCou2024 if you did not register last year.
- If you do not wish to make changes to your benefits or participate in the Flexible Spending Account (FSA), your 2026 benefits will roll over to 2027 **with the exception of any FSA elections.**
- If you want to participate in either of the 2027 Flexible Spending Accounts, you must enroll.
- If you are adding dependents, you must submit your supporting documentation (marriage license, birth certificates, etc.) **by October 15, 2026.**
- Follow the instructions in your Annual Enrollment Guide to make changes or enroll.

Reminder! The deadline to enroll is October 15, 2026.

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Employee Assistance Program
1-800-272-7255

Deferred Compensation
1-877-677-3678

United Healthcare
1-866-414-1959

Risk Management Department
409-835-8672

Employee Health Department
409-784-5881

County Website
jeffersoncountytexas.gov

2026 Annual Enrollment Meetings - 2027 Benefits

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 @ 2:00 PM

Jefferson County Courthouse, Jury Impaneling Room
1085 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX 77701

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 @ 9:30 AM

Jefferson County Sub-Courthouse, Judge Guillory's Courtroom
525 Lakeshore Drive, Port Arthur, TX 77640

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 @ 1:15 PM & 3:15 PM

Jefferson County Correctional Facility, Shift Room
5030 US 69 South, Beaumont, TX 77705

Thursday, September 24, 2026 @ 9:30 AM

Jefferson County Courthouse, Jury Impaneling Room
1085 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX 77701



It is very important employees attend one of the offered Annual Enrollment Meetings in order to learn more about your benefit options and ask any questions you may have.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Risk Management at (409) 835-8672.

What's Happening at The Ben?

Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitors Center

We invite you to FALL into travel! After the terribly hot summer we've had, everyone should get out and visit our museums, attractions, parks, and beaches. Grab a kayak or canoe and paddle one of our bayous or rivers. Load up your family and friends to spend the day at Village Creek or Sea Rim State Park. There are plenty of area outdoor activities to enjoy.

Save the date of Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 11:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. to attend Big Thicket Day at Collier's Ferry Park. Enjoy entertainment, vendors, food, and boat rides on the Neches River. This is a family friendly event sponsored by the Big Thicket Association.



Our staff is gearing up to promote Jefferson County at several fall festivals. Come join us!

- Saturday, October 10th in Marshall, Texas for the Fire Ant Festival 175 miles away
- Saturday, October 31st in Palestine, Texas for the Hot Pepper Festival 173 miles away
- Saturday, November 14th in Henderson, Texas for the Heritage Syrup Festival 152 miles away

These festivals are family friendly with parades, vendors, food, fun, and entertainment. Kick start your holiday shopping too! We always enjoy meeting the locals in these towns. They love that we participate in their festivals and enjoy hearing about all our fun things to see and do.

On Wednesday, November 11, 2026 at 11 A.M., Vietnam Veterans Chapter 292 will be hosting our annual Veterans Day event. We hope you will join us and bring someone with you. If you haven't attended, you are missing out! The program starts promptly at 11:00 A.M., so come early and have some coffee with us and stay for refreshments afterward.

The Visitors Center is open daily from 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. We'd love for you to stop by and check out all the awesome travel information and let us make suggestions for your upcoming days off. See you soon!



Facebook:
Ben J. Rogers
Regional Visitors
Center



Instagram:
ExploreJeffCoTX



Website:
ExploreJefferson
CountyTX.com

Employee Health Clinic

The Employee Health Clinic staff will be administering the Flucelvax Influenza Vaccine. Vaccines are available to all full-time employees & their covered dependents over the age of 16.

Please find a time and location that works with your schedule.

Flu Vaccine Schedule 2026 - 2027

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Annex I Agriculture Conference Room **12:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

Port Arthur Sub-Courthouse **8:45 AM - 9:30 AM**
Precinct 3 - Commissioner Sinegal (at Courthouse)

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

Minnie Rogers Juvenile Justice Center **1:15 PM - 1:45 PM**
Jefferson County Correctional Facility **2:00 PM - 3:00 PM**
Precinct 2 - Commissioner Erickson **3:30 PM - 4:00 PM**

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Precinct 4 - Commissioner Alfred **1:00 PM - 1:30 PM**
Precinct 1 - Commissioner Willis **4:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

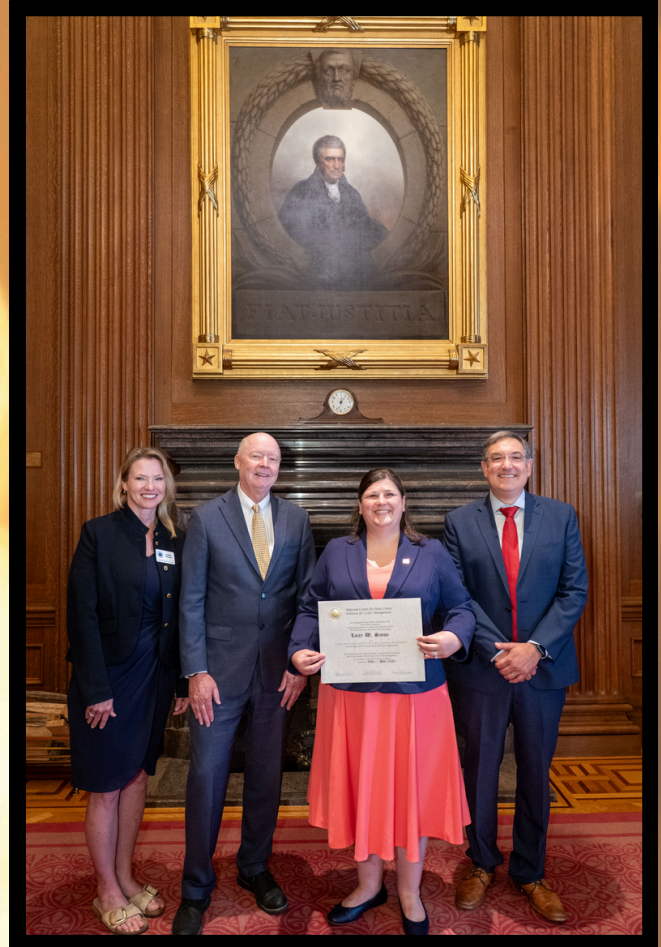
Thursday, October 1, 2026

Airport Jerry Ware Terminal **11:00 AM - 1:30 PM**

If you are unable to receive your vaccination on one of these days, you may call the clinic for an appointment after October 1, 2026, at (409) 784-5881.

Hats Off to You!

We would like to congratulate Lacey Simon, Court Coordinator for the Criminal District Court, for graduating from the Institute for Court Management (ICM) Fellows Program during a ceremony held at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington D.C. on July 10, 2026. Lacey was among 30 students in the program this year, and the first Court Coordinator from Jefferson County to earn this national honor in the ICM's 56-year history.



Congrats!



We would like to congratulate Precinct 1 Commissioner Brandon Willis on his graduation from the V.G. Young Institute of County Government Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service Commissioners Court Leadership Academy, a two-year program that strengthens county officials' knowledge, leadership, communication, decision-making, and advocacy skills to better serve the county and its constituents.

Congratulations **DWAYNE JOHNSON** ON TWO OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS!



On **July 25, 2026**, Dwayne Johnson proudly graduated and earned his Bachelor of Science and Criminal Justice degree from the University of Phoenix.

This achievement is a reflection of his dedication, perseverance, and commitment to continuing his education while serving the citizens of Jefferson County. His hard work in the classroom, combined with his dedication, is certainly something to be proud of.

Adding to this accomplishment, Dwayne Johnson has recently been promoted to Chief Deputy, stepping into a position that recognizes his experience, leadership, and commitment to his department and community.

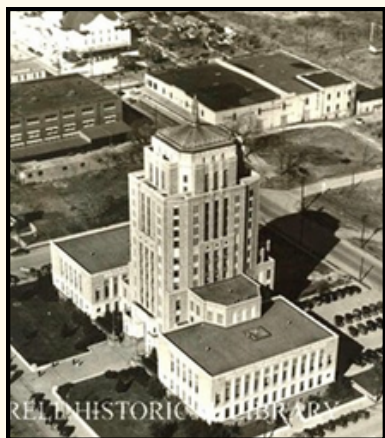
We are proud to celebrate both his educational achievement and this important milestone in his career. His willingness to grow, lead, and continue learning serves as an example of the dedication and professionalism that makes a difference in public service.

*We are proud of you and wish you continued success,
Chief Deputy Dwayne (the rock) Johnson!*

The Jefferson County Historical Commission

The Commission has been busy writing grants and planning for the Magnolia Cemetery Tour. We have nominated two cemeteries that have been designated by the Texas Historical Commission as Texas Historic Cemeteries.

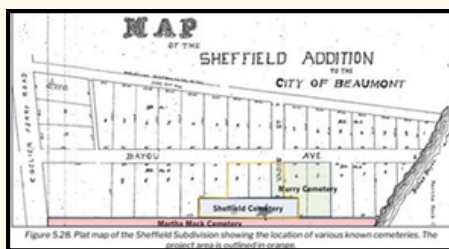
Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant - The Jefferson County Historical Commission received a matching grant of \$5,000 to prepare the National Register Nomination for the Port Neches Jail. This will be the first NR Nomination in Port Neches.
Photo: Theresa Goodness



Texas Historical Commission Preservation Program (THCPP) Grant - Jefferson County received a grant of \$814,322.00 for architectural plans for a future restoration of the original 1931 courthouse. Photo: Tyrrell Historical Library



We have also been working on our 2027 calendar which will be out soon.



Sheffield Cemetery and Martha Mack Cemetery were designated by the Texas Historical Commission as Historic Cemeteries. These two cemeteries, once lost, have now been officially located and recognized as historic.



Please join the Jefferson County Historical Commission and The Magnolia Cemetery Board for the Historic Magnolia Cemetery Tour on Thursday, October 15, 2026 4 PM to 6 PM and Saturday, October 17, 2026 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, located at 2291 Pine Street, Beaumont, TX 77703

The Top Ten Gardening Mistakes

Vegetable gardening can be a rewarding experience for growing your own food or it can become an activity riddled with mistakes that can hamper garden activities. With a decade of experience as a county agent and over 30 years of gardening experiences, I can honestly say that I've made most of the mistakes that could possibly happen. I have learned from these mistakes and found ways to improve garden yields over time. With just a few tips and tricks, you can have a garden to enjoy and worry less about mistakes.

Wrong Season

When planning what vegetables to plant, timing is a critical item to consider. In Texas, our seasons transition quickly from one to the other. With a shorter growing season in the spring, we are tempted to plan too early or too late for our seasonal crops. Spring crops such as cucumbers, tomatoes, and squash, to name a few, will simply stop setting fruit when temperatures get too high. I get lots of calls at the extension office from homeowners wanting to plant tomatoes in July and expecting fruit during summer months. Other fruits, such as okra, thrive in the summer heat, so planting too early will not yield any extra success. Wintertime crops are just as picky on weather. Broccoli and cauliflower may survive light freezes but an unexpected cold snap with below average temperatures may hamper growing conditions or cause damage to crops. The best option is to plant early enough in season to have established plants before cold temperatures arrive.

Wrong Plant Varieties for Our Region

Ensure that you are planting varieties adapted to our region. Select varieties with extreme heat tolerance. A good example are tomatoes. Select tomato varieties that are bred to tolerate heat may include Heatmaster, Bobcat, Celebrity, or other heat tolerant varieties. Some of the Heirloom tomato varieties are geared towards growing in much milder climates and will struggle to be productive in our region.

Poor Soil Drainage

Let's be honest about our heavy clay soils in Southeast Texas. They hold water and make gardening tough without some type of soil amendments or raising the level of soil up. Most problems in gardens can be attributed to the poor drainage or overly saturated soil.

Building up gardening areas to provide extra drainage is a good option. Signs of poor drainage in plants can include wilting (yes, plants can wilt from excessive standing water), and root deterioration that will eventually lead roots to rot to finish off plants for good.

Lack of Soil Preparation

All soils are not created equal. Some are better than others. The addition of any organic amendments such as compost can improve soil quality and health. A 2" - 6" layer of compost added and worked into soils can improve drainage, soil fertility, and workability. Before any plants go into the garden, be sure to perform a soil test to determine what nutrients may be lacking. It is easier to adjust your pH before plants go in, rather than after the fact.

Nutrient/Fertilizer Imbalances

A good soil test will indicate what nutrients are needed to be productive and healthy. Sometimes soil can become excessively high or low in nutrients and may require specific additions to correct imbalances. Using the same fertilizer (let's assume 13-13-13) repeatedly may not be the best option if you need a fertilizer with more nitrogen. Most gardens that I deal with are woefully infertile and need additional nutrients to be productive.



The Top Ten Gardening Mistakes

Poor Sanitation

Resist the urge to leave that sick or diseased plant in the garden in the hopes that it might live. Chances are that it will be riddled with diseases that may spread to other healthy plants. Remove and discard these plants and any debris associated with them. Clean tools between each use and do not use soil that has signs of nematodes or other infestations. Check transplants before purchase to ensure disease free plants

Too Much Shade

Plant with maximum availability for sunlight. Sunlight on leaves creates carbohydrates, which in turn makes the plant grow, and produce fruit. Strive for 6-8 hours of good quality sunlight daily. Some of your leafy greens can tolerate a bit more shade but are happy to have sun.

Pest Control

Pests are a problem in the garden. They can destroy a crop quickly. Prompt action is important to catch the issue quickly and control it before it gets out of control. When caught early, you have better control options and can minimize damage. Delaying action on controlling insects will cost you in the end damaged and poor-quality fruit and vegetables.

Weed Management

Weeds can ruin a garden quickly. They can compete with plants for needed nutrients, sunlight, and water resources. They are designed to be aggressive in growth and can overpower young plants quickly. Mulch is a great option for weed suppression with a 2"-3" layer at the base of plants. When weeds do show up, quick eradication by hand, chemical, or other methods will minimize the impact on your garden.

Container Sizes

For smaller gardens, containers may be the perfect option for growing vegetables. Don't cut corners and plant in a container that is too small. You will limit your plants root systems ability to develop and will hamper growth. The color of the container is important also. Some dark-colored containers may absorb heat faster and cause premature heating of the soil. This may lead to excess water consumption. Be sure to provide sufficient watering for containers.

Your container gardens are dependent on you for regular watering during growing season.

Avoid these common mistakes in the garden and you will be on the way to a productive harvest in no time.

David Oates

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Horticulture -
Jefferson County

David.Oates@ag.tamu.edu
(409) 835-8461

Welcome Y'all!



We would like to welcome the following new employees to Jefferson County!

Adult Probation: Carrie Dumas, Latashia Dupree, Michael Halsell, Camrynne Rebert, Kahlia Sanders

District Attorney: Eva Shelander

Juvenile Probation: Kelrick Artis, Elysia Hawthorne

Maintenance - Beaumont: Jason Herrmann

Mosquito Control: Joe Salazar

Road & Bridge, Pct. 2: Ricky Mullins Jr.

Sheriff: Janya Applewhite, Marcus Barber, Chelsea Clayton, Aaliyah Bruner, Eunique Fernandez, Ryah Gorrer, Clarence Haynes Jr., Keemora Jones, Brenda Patron, Nisha Ramgoolam, Justin Scott, Kirsten Smith, Daniela Zamudio

Tax Office: Jamie Bettis, Sean Botello, Kimberly Cunningham, Deborah Moore, Abigail Pieper

REMINDERS FOR RETIREMENT

Contact McKenna Bertrand in Human Resources, to schedule your appointment to retire and to receive a list of required documents.

If you do not already have access to your online portal you will need to contact Human Resources for your account number.
(409) 839-2391

We wish all of our retirees continued happiness and success in their future endeavors. Congratulations!

July

Dennis Copeland
Michael Dixon
Derrick Nail

September

Donna Picou

Happy Retirement!

August

Jules Barnes III
Sylvia Moore

Autumn Word Search

ACORN	FALL
APPLE	LEAF
AUTUMN	RAKE
BON FIRE	SCARECROW
COLORS	SWEATER
COOL	WIND

A	C	R	N	B	C	O	L	O	R	S	A
W	B	A	C	O	R	N	A	P	P	W	U
I	O	P	O	N	F	A	L	L	X	E	T
N	F	P	O	F	S	W	T	E	R	A	U
D	R	L	L	I	C	O	L	A	Q	T	M
C	E	E	P	R	A	K	E	F	L	E	N
S	C	A	R	E	C	R	O	W	D	R	Z

GOT PAIN?

**JEFFERSON
COUNTY**
is offering the
**"NCS ON-SITE
WELLNESS PROGRAM"**

Available to **SETGEBP** Members enrolled in the **UHC** Medical Plan and their covered dependents (10+ years). **TOTALLY FREE OF CHARGE.**

IF YOU SUFFER FROM THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF PAIN:



NECK



SHOULDER



BACK



CARPEL TUNNEL



HEADACHES

OR OTHER TYPES OF DISCOMFORT, WE HAVE A PROGRAM JUST FOR YOU.

How it Works

NCS Doctors use an advanced soft tissue treatment called Fascial Distortion Model (FDM) to find and address injuries and relieve pain. Most issues are resolved within 2-3 visits.

Appointments are free to employees, only 15 minutes long, and located on-site.

To schedule your free 15 minute appointment:

1. Go to www.NMCSOnline.com/SETGEBP
2. Select "Create New Account"
3. Complete your medical questionnaire
4. Select "Appointment"
5. Choose a time and follow the prompts.



or scan qr code

Sign Up Now

Need help? Please contact your NCS on-site coordinator.
Additional assistance is available: support@ncshealing.com or (817) 380-4183.

Downtown Annex 215 Franklin Street, Suite 202
Beaumont, TX 77701
Monday and Wednesday
1:00 PM to 5 PM
Risk Management Room in the Annex

Mid County 7933 Viterbo Road, Unit 4
Beaumont, TX 77705
Tuesday and Thursday
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Your new Employee Assistance Program

Dear Employee,

We're pleased to announce ComPsych® Guidance Resources® as the new provider of our Employee Assistance Program services.

The GuidanceResources program offers confidential counseling, expert guidance, and valuable resources to help you and your household members handle any of life's challenges, big or small. These services are provided at no charge and include:



Confidential Emotional Support

Life can be stressful. Your EAP provides short-term counseling to help handle concerns constructively, before they become bigger issues. Call anytime about topics such as marital, relationship, and family problems; stress, anxiety, and depression; grief and loss; job pressures, and substance use.



Legal Guidance

With GuidanceResources, you have an attorney "on call" whenever you have questions about legal concerns such as divorce, custody, adoption, real estate, debt and bankruptcy, landlord or tenant issues, civil and criminal actions, and more. If you need representation, you can be referred to a qualified attorney for a free 30-minute consultation and a 25 percent discount on legal fees.



Financial Information

Everyone has financial questions. Get the answers you need to handle budgeting, debt management, tax issues, and similar money concerns from our staff of accountants, financial planners, and other experts simply by calling your toll-free number.



Work and Lifestyle Support

Too much to do and too little time to get it all done? Work-Life experts can do the research for you and provide qualified referrals and customized resources for topics such as child and elder care, moving, pet care, college planning, home repair, buying a car, planning an event, selling a house, and more.

Get help anytime, anywhere

To access services:

Call 800.272.7255 to speak to a highly trained, caring professional who will guide you to the services you need.

Go to guidanceresources.com and enter your company ID: Jefferson County EAP.

Assistance is always confidential. View the ComPsych HIPAA privacy notice at guidanceresources.com/privacy.



Digital Support

Go to GuidanceResources Online to connect directly to counseling, work and lifestyle support, and other resources, such as search tools for child care and legal services. Not sure what you need? Take a brief well-being assessment, which evaluates your needs across six primary care pillars: Mental, Emotional, Physical, Social, Legal, and Financial. The platform benchmarks your results and provides a series of personalized, multistep Well-Being Plans tailored to you. You can also access an array of articles, videos, and other media on thousands of topics, along with on-demand trainings, podcasts, and more.

24/7

Live Assistance

Call: 800.272.7255

App: GuidanceNowSM

Online: guidanceresources.com

TRS: Dial 711

Web ID: JeffersonCountyEAP



Scan for more resources

