

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

October is Texas Archeology Month. McFaddin Beach was in the news again recently in the Beaumont Enterprise when a couple who was combing the beach for arrowheads found a Ridley sea turtle.

Let us remember our friend and fellow commissioner, Leslie "Paul" Tanner, who spent years categorizing and mapping his finds from McFaddin Beach, and then left his collection for future students at the University of Texas Archeological Research Laboratory to learn from and enjoy.

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



Leslie "Paul" Tanner and his collection of artifacts

Photo Credit: JCHC archives

### VOLUME 2015, ISSUE 5

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### SEPTEMBER, 2015

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Next Meeting.
- \* Jefferson County Fast Facts
- \* Beaumont Landmark Commission
- \* Port Arthur Landmark Commission

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

**7/1/1968**

Date the Jefferson County Commissioners closed the Jefferson County Tuberculosis Hospital due to advances in treatment resulting in too few patients to justify the overhead of maintaining the hospital.

**39**

Number of Sheriffs who have served in Jefferson County since 1837. The longest tenure, 24 years, was that of Thomas H. Langham who served from 1876 to 1900.

**1857**

Year the Sabine Pass lighthouse was placed into service. Benjamin Granger was the first light keeper.

## SOUTH PARK MARKER TO BE REDEDICATED

The historical marker for South Park High School, originally erected in 1988, had been missing since 2010 when the original school was demolished. JCHC made several attempts to locate the marker, sending letters of inquiry to BISD's superintendent and to the school board. Despite our best efforts, we never received any response from the school district to our inquiries.

Miraculously JCHC has recently been contacted by Mike Getz, Mayor Pro Tem, of the City of Beaumont, who informed the commission the South Park marker has been located. Mr. Getz is in charge of the rededication ceremony which will take place on October 3, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

Marker Chair, Les McMahan, has given appropriate directions regarding the placement of the marker and a supplemental plaque indicating the original building no longer stands.

The text of the marker reads, "Built by the South Park Independent School District in 1922-1923, this structure also housed classes of South Park Junior College for ten years. Renamed Lamar Junior College in 1932 and Lamar University in 1971, the college institution moved to its own campus in 1942. South Park High School remained at this location until 1986, when it was merged with West Brook High School and this facility became a junior high school. South Park High School represents both the past and future of education in Beaumont."

Where the marker has been the last five years remains a mystery.

## JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2015

September 24, 2015	Noon	Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Ctr., 5055 I-H 10 South, Beaumont, TX
November 19, 2015	Noon	Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Ctr., 5055 I-H 10 South, 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

## FERTITTA BUILDING

The Fertitta Building located at the corner of Fannin and Park Streets in downtown Beaumont has undergone some work recently to secure the building from vagrants. The windows and doors have been boarded up and the entire exterior painted. Certainly the structure is now more aesthetically pleasing to any passersby.

Tom Bell, Director of Beaumont Main Street, was contacted for any news about this development. Mr. Bell said Joe Penland owns the building, but at this time he has not shared any of his plans with Beaumont Main Street.



Fertitta Building, corner of Park and Fannin Streets in downtown Beaumont prior to improvements

Photo Credit: Google Maps



Fertitta Building, corner of Park and Fannin Streets in downtown Beaumont after improvements

Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness



## MAGNOLIA CEMETERY TOUR

Paul Prosperie and Jimmy Sparks, have arranged a walking/driving tour of Beaumont's historic Magnolia Cemetery for JCHC members on Monday, October 19, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. Join us for a fascinating tour of one of Beaumont's oldest cemeteries, founded in 1887, and the final resting place of some of Beaumont's most prominent citizens.



Magnolia Cemetery

Photo Credit: [Magnolia Cemetery website](#)



Magnolia Cemetery Postcard

Photo Credit: [txgenweb website](#)

## BEAUMONT LANDMARK COMMISSION

Beaumont Landmark Commission meetings are held the second Monday at 3:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, located on the 1st floor of City Hall, 801 Main Street, Beaumont, TX. Meetings are open to the public.

The latest agenda from the August 10, 2015, meeting is posted [here](#).

Ramona Hutchison is JCHC's representative on the commission.

## PORT ARTHUR LANDMARK COMMISSION

Port Arthur Landmark Commission meetings are held in Council Chambers, located on the 1st floor of City Hall, Council Chambers, Fifth Floor, 444 Fourth Street, Port Arthur, TX. Meetings are open to the public. The latest agenda from the August 13, 2015, meeting is posted [here](#). Les McMahan is JCHC's representative on the commission.

## CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS

The Certified Local Government (CLG) committee held a meeting on August 24, 2015, at the Jefferson County Precinct 1 office in China. On the agenda was a discussion about identifying and evaluating the county's northernmost historic and cultural resources for the CLG and a review and discussion of the Request for Information for the CLG sub-grant proposal.

In addition to CLG committee members, in attendance at the meeting were Ronald Kuebodeaux and Barry Adams of China.

After discussion the committee toured Ronnie Kuebodeaux's museum building and viewed his amazing collection of photographs and artifacts.

## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Museum of the Gulf Coast

September 5—January 24, 2016

Crocodilian Scratchboards by John Agnew  
Scratchboards of alligators and their relatives



Museum of the Gulf Coast  
Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



Chambers House  
Photo Credit: chambershouse.org

### Haunted Halloween Heritage Happy Hour

When: Thursday, October 22, 2015, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

This event will be in conjunction with the annual Haunted Halloween Tour. Come wander the halls of this historic home with a one of a kind look into the past. Guests of all ages will enjoy a peek into the lives of departed Chambers family members, portrayed by costumed actors.

Cost: Free to Beaumont Heritage Society  
Members and \$10 for non-members

### McFaddin Ward House

Fall Community Picnic/Outdoor Movie

October 15, 2015 ,5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Bring the whole family, spread out on the lawn, enjoy some live music, and pack a picnic. The Port Arthur Playboys will be offering the live entertainment this go 'round, so bring your dancing shoes!

And this year we're adding an outdoor movie! After the live music wraps up, we'll be showing a movie of YOUR choice. Vote here: <http://svy.ml/1R9ppyY>

As always this is free and open to the public. Picnic from 5:00—7:30 p.m. and movie begins at 7:30 p.m.



McFaddin Ward House  
Photo Credit: mcfaddin-ward.org



**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

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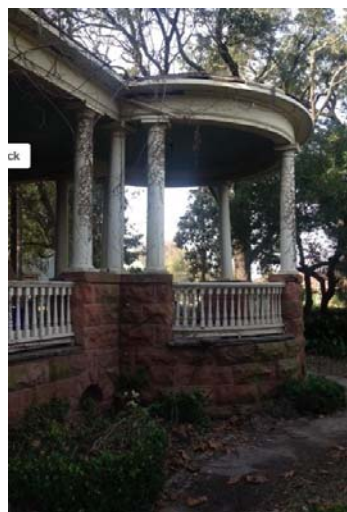


*To preserve and  
promote history within  
the County.*

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

Caroline Hinchee House:  
The Grand Veranda pre-  
restoration

Photo Credit: [Hinchee  
House website](#)



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2015 - 2017

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

2nd Vice-Chairman, Paul Prosperie

Secretary/Treasurer, Linda McMahan

Immediate Past Chairman, Ron Ellington

**DICK DOWLING DAYS 2015**

The Dick Dowling Days event with reenactments of the battle was not held this year, but the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #1295 held a commemoration and wreath laying event on September 5, 2015, at Sabine Pass Battleground.

Dick Dowling Days 2015 Wreath Laying  
Photo Credit: Paul Prosperie

