

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

May is National Preservation Month. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has launched a public awareness campaign called *This Place Matters* that encourages people to celebrate the places that matter most to them and their communities. Folks are posting photos of these cherished places on Instagram and Facebook, and using the hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters to inspire others to get involved in preservation. This is a great tool to get a conversation started with our friends and neighbors about why preservation matters.



This Place Matters Campaign

Photo Credit: [Saving Places.org](http://SavingPlaces.org)

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

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair

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In this issue:

- Texas Archeological Society **2**
- Beaumont Heritage Society Happy Hour—Magnolia **3**
- 44th Annual Galveston Historic Home Tour **4**

MAY, 2018

Special points of interest:

- * Jefferson County Fast Facts
- * Mini-Museum Exhibit: Travel Back in Time Without Leaving Home

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

\$1250.00

Monthly lease cost county agreed to pay City of Beaumont in June, 1930, for the use of the old high school on College Street to use as a temporary courthouse while a new courthouse was constructed.

2/11/1942

Date of letter from the Civil Aeronautics Administration informing Commissioner's Court the Air Corps had declared it a first priority to prepare plans and specifications to award a contract to build the county airport.

9

Number of offices requested on 8/9/1943 by Ben Taub, District Manager, of the Office of Price Administration in rent free agreement with the county for office space on the second floor of the courthouse for the duration of the war.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) sponsors an archeological field school each summer to provide training in archeological techniques. During the week-long event there are many opportunities for all ages to learn excavation techniques, survey methods, a youth program, and special training for newcomers and teachers. The field school lasts eight days and is led by professional archeologists and trained avocational archeologists.

The 2018 TAS Field School will return for a second year to Nueces Canyon in Camp Wood and Barksdale to assist Dr. Tamra Walter and her students from Texas Tech university with their research on the archeology of Mission San Lorenzo de la Cruz.

Check out the Texas Archeological Society's [website](#) for more information on this great opportunity to learn more about archeology in our state.

UPCOMING JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2018

Meetings to be held at Jefferson County Courthouse, 1149 Pearl Street, 3rd Floor, Beaumont, TX 77701 in the JCHC Conference Room.

- 5/9/2018 at Noon
- 7/18/2018 at Noon
- 9/19/2018 at Noon
- 11/14/2018 at Noon

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 histcomm@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 HAPPY HOUR

BY PAUL PROSPERIE

The Beaumont Heritage Society held its Heritage Happy Hour event at Magnolia Cemetery on April 12th. Members absorbed early Beaumont history, thanks to JCHC volunteers Don Smart, Jen Shipley Trenbeath, and Bruce Hamilton. Also participating were Historian Judith Linsley and members of the SCV Dick Dowling Camp #1295. A big thanks goes out to all those helping out and contributing their time and knowledge of early Beaumont history.

Members who attended learned about several early residents, such as William Patterson, the first officer of the Beaumont Police Department to die in the line of duty, the Reverend Smart, who was a preacher in early Gladys City, and the original Magnolia Cemetery plot.

The Heritage Happy Hour is a bi-monthly social event that takes place at historic sites around Beaumont. To learn more about these events or about the Beaumont Heritage Society, visit its website at www.beaumontheritage.org



Magnolia Cemetery Historical Marker

Photo Credit: JCHC Marker Booklet



Magnolia Cemetery Tour

Photo Credits: Paul Prosperie



44TH ANNUAL GALVESTON HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

When is the Tour: The Galveston Historic Homes Tour is held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on May 5, 6, 12 & 13, 2018.

How much are tickets? Tickets are \$30 prior to May 4, 2018. \$35.00 after. \$25 for GHF members and groups of 20 or more. Tickets are non-refundable.

Where do I start? You can start at any of the homes on the tour.

Where can I buy tickets? To purchase tickets for the tour, click [here](#) or call 1-888-305-7627. Tickets may be used all four days of the tour.

Where do I park? Parking is available near each tour home on a first come, first served basis. No shuttle service is offered.

2018 HOUSES ON TOUR

- 1896 William and Adele Skinner House (Homes Tour Cover House) – 1318 Sealy
- 1874 Smith-Hartley House – 1121 33rd Street
- 1883 Adolph and Regina Frenkel House – 2424 Avenue L
- 1887 John Burnett Tenant House – 2123 Avenue K
- 1893 Thomas and Lillie League House – 3528 Avenue P
- 1895 James and Maggie Lowber House – 3018 Avenue O ½
- 1913 John and Artie Gilbert House – 3608 Avenue O
- 1928 Paul and Veska Chushcoff Tenant House – 1503 Church
- Rehabilitation in Progress: 1905 Benjamin Dolson Tenant House – 1723 Mechanic

Photo Credit:
[Galveston
Historical
Foundation
website](#)



AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast

May 12 - June 9 - "Submerged" (Amy Morris)

3rd Place Adult Professional Division - Gulf Coast Community Art Show 2018.

We were very impressed with Amy's encaustic assemblage paintings AND her quilts with hurricane-salvaged fabrics. Per the rules of the art show, she could only enter two pieces but we'd like to show the whole series.

This is a very short show, between two larger scheduled exhibitions, so be sure not to miss it!

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



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: [museumofthegulfcoast.org](#)



Photo Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](#)

Beaumont Heritage Society

Session 1: July 10-13

Session 2: July 17-20

Camp Lookinback is a fun and educational four-day summer camp held on the grounds of the historic John Jay French museum. Children, ages 6-11, experience another time in Texas history while in a safe and enriching environment. Hands-on activities related to the 1800s will be conducted each day. Camp Lookinback is fun for both boys and girls! Registration is required and space is limited and filled on a first come first serve basis. Cost per child is \$75.00 for Non-Members and \$65.00 for BHS Members.

Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](#)

McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Free Lecture: Crystal Bridges Museum May 10 @ 6:30 pm—7:30 pm

Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, AR has most definitely evolved. What started as a conversation and a sketch on a napkin ended with the genius architecture of Moshe Safdie and a highly respected cultural institution. Founded by Alice Walton, daughter of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton, the museum is an iconic example of American Art and Architecture. Curator Dylan Turk is our guest speaker.

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



McFaddin-Ward House Museum

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

**JEFFERSON
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HISTORICAL
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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 for Matchett
Herring Coe, buried in
Magnolia Cemetery. He
was a well known sculptor
whose artworks include
the Dick Dowling Statue in
Sabine Pass.

Credit: Theresa Goodness



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2017 - 2018

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

2nd Vice-Chairman, Paul Prosperie

Secretary/Treasurer, Linda McMahan

Brenda Jackson

JCHC MINI-MUSEUM “TRAVEL BACK IN TIME WITHOUT LEAVING HOME”

The Jefferson County Historical Commission is proud to announce their June / July exhibit housed in the Mini-Museum located on the first floor of the historic Jefferson County Courthouse. The exhibit, entitled “Travel Back in Time without Leaving Home,” shows examples of books, magazines and brochures highlighting County history and places to visit. Many of the books are from the Jefferson County Historical Commission Library housed on the third floor.

Also on exhibit, will be copies of Beaumont and Port Arthur City Directories dating back to the 1920's. These books help in locating businesses, schools and people's addresses of years past.