

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,
 October is Texas Archeology Month. All across the state the contributions of dedicated archeologists, both professional and avocational, are being recognized. Their important scientific discoveries help all Texans to understand our past from prehistoric cultures to more recent important events such as the Spindletop oil gusher with its nearby Gladys City.

Be sure to check out the [2021 Texas Archeology Month Event Calendar](#) to find both virtual and in-person opportunities to learn more about Texas history through archeology.

Thank you to our members for your time and service.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Spindletop - Gladys City Archeological Excavation in 2011
 Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

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SEPTEMBER, 2021

Special points of interest:

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

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

8/31/2008

Effective date of Mandatory Evacuation Order signed by County Judge Ronald Walker in response to Hurricane Gustav which made landfall in Louisiana. The order was terminated on 9/2/2008.

9/11/2008

Effective date of Mandatory Evacuation Order signed by County Judge Ronald Walker in response to Hurricane Ike. The order was in effect for nine days until 9/20/2008 at 6:00 a.m. Damages from the storm are estimated at over \$30 Billion dollars.

9/19/2019

Date of Disaster Declaration by County Judge Jeff Branick in response to Tropical Storm Imelda. Damages from the storm, which caused massive flooding, are estimated at over \$5 Billion dollars.

NEW TEXAS PRESERVATION PLAN TO OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

AUSTIN, Texas —

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is launching the Texas’ Statewide Preservation Plan process to address the changing culture of historic preservation in our great state. Over the next 15 months, the THC will host in-person and virtual public forums in which Texans can reflect on preservation accomplishments, share information about existing challenges and those on the horizon, and recommend steps to save the real places and real stories of Texas.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires each State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to periodically develop a statewide historic preservation plan. The statewide planning process encourages broad public participation in discussions about the challenges related to preserving cultural and historical resources. The process is meant to empower local communities, organizations, and individuals to action. In Texas, the SHPO role is executed by the THC.

The facilitation team for Texas’ Statewide Preservation Plan is led by The Lakota Group, a Chicago-based firm known for its robust public engagement approaches for planning projects in rural and urban communities across the nation, including San Antonio and Denton. Lakota is joined by Blanton & Associates, an environmental and historic preservation planning firm based in Texas that specializes in regulatory compliance and cultural resource management. The Craig Group of Lodi, California also assists the team by providing expertise for addressing disaster-related threats and implementing best practices in local government disaster mitigation planning. Credit: [THC website](#)

UPCOMING JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2021

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.)

- 9/15/2021
- 11/17/2021

VOLUNTEER HOURS AND MEMBERSHIP

PRESERVATION PARTNERS

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

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

BEAUMONT HIGH SCHOOL AND KCS/MP PASSENGER DEPOT

BY LES MCMAHEN



The old Beaumont High School in downtown Beaumont with the joint KCS/MP passenger depot and freight depot, located along Gilbert Street near Archie Street, in the background, looking south. Based on the trucks at the end of the passenger depot, the photo is probably from the mid to late 1920s.

Photo Credit: Tyrrell Historical Library Collection

FRIENDS OF TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HOSTS VIRTUAL EVENTS

Marine Archeology in Texas

Join us for a discussion with **Amy Borgens, State Marine Archeologist**, and learn more about Texas' exciting shipwreck archeology and its still undiscovered mysteries.

Texas boasts a rich, vast maritime history spanning nearly 500 years, commencing with the accidental stranding of Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca and survivors of the Pánfilo de Narváez Expedition at Galveston in 1528. Unfortunately, maritime travel was often perilous, resulting in the loss of thousands of vessels off the Texas coast. Nearly 2,000 shipwrecks are reported, with only 180 archeological sites discovered so far. Texas contains the oldest shipwrecks in the United States, the 1554 Spanish Plate Fleet, and others dating from the colonial period to World War II.

Date: Thursday, September 23, 6 p.m. Central

Platform: Zoom (*Registrants will receive the link to the event via email closer to event date*)

Cost: Free (*Donations in support of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission are welcome and appreciated!*)

[Link for Registration](#)

You Say Prah-LEENS, We Say PRAY-leens: The Texas Praline Tradition

Pecan pralines are a beloved element of the Creole cuisine of New Orleans, and their culinary ancestors traveled a long journey from medieval Persia through Europe to French Louisiana in the New World.

Equally beloved—but less well-known outside of Texas—are the pecan pralines found in Texas-Mexican cooking traditions. Originally sold by 19th-century Tejano street vendors, they later became the standard dessert in 20th-century Tex-Mex restaurants across the state.

What food-culture migrations brought these caramelized sugar and nut confections to Texas, and do they share common roots with the pralines of Louisiana? Why are these Texas candies called by the French term "pralines?"

In this presentation, author and food historian MM Pack will explore the origins and paths of Texas pralines and the connections to their culinary cousins in Louisiana and Mexico.

Date: Saturday, October 2, 2 p.m. Central

Platform: Zoom (*Registrants will receive the link to the event via email closer to event date*)

Cost: Free (*Donations in support of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission are welcome and appreciated!*)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Credit: www.thcfriends.org

AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast

Music Hall of Fame

More than 82 musicians are featured in the Museum's Music Hall of Fame. The rich cultural crossroads of the Gulf Coast has created a unique mix of musical talent representing nearly every genre including rock, blues, swamp pop, soul, pop, western swing, jazz, and country.

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



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



John Jay French House Museum

Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

Beaumont Heritage Society

Heritage Happy Hour—Beaumont Municipal Airport
September 16 @ 5:30 p.m.

Enjoy craft beer showcased by Giglio Distributing Co., wine, and socializing in one of Beaumont's fascinating historic locations, the Beaumont Municipal Airport! The Beaumont Municipal Airport was originally constructed during the Great Depression as a Works Progress Administration Project (WPA) and activated on October 1, 1937. The Army Air Corps used the field during World War II as a base of operations for antisubmarine patrols. Commercial service was provided by Trans-Texas Airways and Delta Airlines until 1946 at which point the Jefferson County Airport was opened.

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

McFaddin-Ward House Museum

September 23 @ 6:30 p.m.

Lecture Description: Kathleen Brown will dive into the fascinating history of aprons with stories that tie Texas apron-wearers and seamstresses together. Speaker Bio: Vintage apron scholar as well as curator and founder of Apron Celebrations in North Richland Hills, Texas, Kathleen Brown has collected vintage aprons for over 30 years. Since 2006, she has been researching the history of aprons and sharing this information with historical societies and private and public communities.

Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum](http://McFaddin-WardHouseMuseum.org)



McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Photo Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](http://McFaddin-WardHouseMuseum.org)

**JEFFERSON
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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/)



1893 Jefferson County
Courthouse and Jail
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
TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH IN
JEFFERSON COUNTY 2021**

The Texas Historical Commission sponsors Texas Archeology Month [TAM] each October. Numerous organizations, including the Jefferson County Historical Commission, celebrate the month with special TAM events in communities throughout the state.

The Jefferson County Historical Commission is proud to announce an archeology exhibit will be on display at the Jefferson County Courthouse Mini-Museum September 27, 2021, through November 30, 2021. We invite the public to view the exhibit located on the first floor of the historical courthouse Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The mini-museum is located near the main exit door of the old courthouse.

To learn more about TAM, please check the Texas Historical Commission website at www.thc.texas.gov. For additional information on the Jefferson County Historical Commission, please call 409-835-8701 or email histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us.