

# JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2021, ISSUE 5

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

As 2021 draws to a close in another difficult pandemic year, let us reflect on happier days in years past and remember our loved ones and friends who have passed on, yet continue to live in our hearts.

May this upcoming holiday season bring a little joy to all of our lives and a renewed appreciation for our holiday traditions, both at home and in our communities. It's amazing how much we miss the little things, and hopefully we have learned not to take anything for granted.

Thank you to our members for your time and service.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Procter Street in Port Arthur decorated for Christmas  
Photo Credit: Archives of Commissioner Brent Weaver

### VOLUME 2021, ISSUE 5

#### In this issue:

Friends of THC Event	2
Orange Hotel	3
TSHA News	4

### NOVEMBER, 2021

#### Special points of interest:

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

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

**\$300,000**

Value of 20,000 tons of sulphur held by Union Sulphur Co. at Sabine, Texas, for the years of 1907-1920, which the Tax Assessor had failed to assess personal property taxes for fourteen years, until 9/12/1921.

**11/5/1921**

Date of endorsement letter to Commissioner's Court from Lodge #55 Knights of Pythias of Beaumont in favor of a new bond issue to build a permanent bridge over the Neches River and for good roads.

**12/04/1939**

Date of acceptance by Commissioner's Court of Award of Special Commissioners in several Eminent Domain cases in the County Court involving land taken for right-of-way for U.S. Highway 90.

## FRIENDS OF TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION EVENT

Thursday, December 2, 6:00 p.m. CST

The Crown Jewels of Texas Architecture: Preserving Texas' Historic Courthouses

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

Started in 1999 by then Governor George W. Bush and the 76th Texas Legislature, the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program has restored over 70 of the state's historic county courthouses with over \$320 million in grants, and inspired the revitalization of dozens of historic downtowns across the state.

Join Susan Tietz, Coordinator of one of the nation's most important preservation grant programs, and hear stories about and see progress and final images of the restoration of some of the most iconic historic building's in both rural and urban communities of Texas Credit: [thcfriends.org](http://thcfriends.org)



1931 Jefferson County Courthouse  
Photo Credit: JCHC Archives

## 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.)

- 11/17/2021

### 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](mailto: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  
Tyrrell Historical Library

## ORANGE HOTEL IN NEDERLAND

BY LES MCMAHEN



Early picture of the Orange Hotel in Nederland that catered to early settlers and visitors to the city after the arrival of the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf (KCS) Railroad.

Building was located at the corner of what is now Boston Avenue and 13<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Nederland, the current site of the former Nederland State Bank (Bank of America).

Photo Credit: Les McMahan Collection

# TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## NEWS

### 125 for Texas

On Texas Independence Day in 1897, a group of independent and professional historians gathered in the state capitol to celebrate the complex history of Texas. One hundred and twenty five years later, the Texas State Historical Association remains dedicated to the central mission of that original group: *to document and preserve the shared story of all Texans.*

We have much to be proud of as TSHA celebrates its 125th birthday. TSHA has a vast library of free-to-use educational materials, an impressive portfolio of scholarly publications, and a strong foundation of dedicated members around the world.

### Texas Almanac, 2021-2022

#### 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.

### November 16: Join us for a *Texas Talks* webinar on Texas's civil rights history

#### Dr. Max Krochmal and Dr. J Todd Moye will discuss the hidden history of Black and Latino civil rights struggles in Texas

In the next installment of our series, Texas Talks, we are excited to welcome Dr. Max Krochmal (TCU) and Dr. J. Todd Moye (UNT), editors, who will discuss their book *Civil Rights in Black and Brown: Histories of Resistance and Struggle in Texas* (University of Texas Press, November 2021), which draws upon more than 500 oral history interviews with African American and Mexican American grassroots activists from every corner of Texas. In this talk, Dr. Krochmal and Dr. Moye, with moderator Dr. Wes Phelps, discuss the book's revelation that not one but two civil rights movements flourished in mid-twentieth-century Texas and they did so in intimate conversation with one another.

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

[Register Here](#)

Credit: [TSHA website](#)

## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Museum of the Gulf Coast

#### Woodstock Exhibit

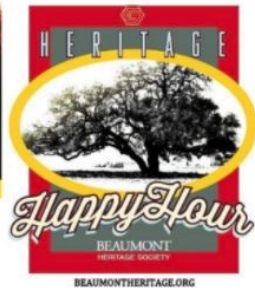
Join us for our new Woodstock Exhibit in the Dunn Gallery celebrating our four Hall of Fame inductees that performed at Woodstock.

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



Museum of the Gulf Coast

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



Heritage Happy Hour

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

### Beaumont Heritage Society

Heritage Happy Hour—Chambers House Museum  
November 18 @ 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Join us for our next Heritage Happy Hour on November 18th from 5:30-7:30 pm! Enjoy craft beer showcased by Giglio Distributing Co., wine, and a movie on the lawn of the beautiful Chambers House Museum! Bring a lawn chair or blanket and snacks to sit and enjoy a showing of Casablanca on the grounds starting at 5:45 p.m.

Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](#)

### McFaddin-Ward House Museum

November 18 @ 6:30 p.m.

Lecture Description: Joe Holley will delve into the stories of interesting Texans not well-known. Speaker Bio: Native Texan, Joe Holley, is a former editorial page editor and columnist for newspapers in San Antonio and San Diego, as well as a staff writer for the Washington Post. A regular contributor to Texas Monthly Magazine, Holley joined the Houston Chronicle in 2009 writing the Native Texan column.

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



McFaddin-Ward House Museum

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

**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

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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/)



July 28, 1943 Flood in Port  
Arthur, 800 block of Procter  
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](http://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](mailto:histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us).