

# JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2014, ISSUE 6

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

This year has been a busy and productive year for promoting our county's history. We have worked on a website re-design to increase visibility of our history and archives, and monitored plans for an interior restoration of the historic courthouse.

May each of you be blessed with a happy and healthy holiday season!

Thank you to our members for your time and service.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



2014 Courthouse Christmas Tree  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

### VOLUME 2014, ISSUE 6

#### In this issue:

Chairman's Letter	1
Beaumont Main Street Annual	2
Montgomery CHC News	3
Retirement Acknowledgements	4

### DECEMBER, 2014

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Next Meeting.
- \* Volunteer Hours.
- \* Mini-museum
- \* CLG News

## CELEBRATING 60 YEARS PRESERVING TEXAS TREASURES

On November 17, the Texas Historical Commission celebrated 60 years of historic preservation. We began in 1953 as the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, formed by the legislature to

oversee state historical programs. Three years later, in 1956, county historical survey committees were created in Texas to carry out preservation work at the local level. See the Texas Historical

Commission website for more information at:

[Celebrating 60 Years Preserving Texas Treasures](#)

## BEAUMONT MAIN STREET ANNUAL MEETING

Beaumont Main Street's Annual Meeting will be held this year at Hotel Beaumont. Special Guest is Mr. Seth McCormick, new owner of Hotel Beaumont located at 625 Orleans in downtown Beaumont.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 7:30 am – 8:45 am. A light breakfast will be served.

The meeting will include Main Street news and views, City plans, Election of BUILD, Inc. / Beaumont Main Street Board Members and the presentation of Main Street' famous Red Brick Awards, Lighting the Way Awards and 20 Year Awards.



Hotel Beaumont Ballroom  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

## NEXT JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2014

December 11, 2014	Noon	Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Center 5055 I-H 10 South, Beaumont, TX
-------------------	------	--

### VOLUNTEER HOURS AND MEMBERSHIP

All Volunteer Hours for 2014 need to be received in the JCHC office by January 15, 2015. This information will be included in the JCHC Annual Report to THC and also Jefferson County Commissioners Court.

At least 50 hours of volunteer work is required of each JCHC member as well as attendance of at least two JCHC

meetings. If attendance is not possible, contact with the JCHC office is required.

Each JCHC member is asked to notify the JCHC office by email or phone by December 31, 2014, that you wish to continue your membership in the JCHC and what project or area you will be working on in 2015.

### PRESERVATION PARTNERS

Beaumont Heritage Society  
Landmark Commission  
Texas Historical Foundation  
Friends of Sabine Pass Park  
Beaumont Main Street

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION NEWS

The Montgomery County Commissioners Court has approved a new Montgomery County Historical Marker Program sponsored by the Montgomery CHC to recognize historical structures and sites throughout their County and which will commemorate diverse topics of local and regional interest.

Larry Foerster, chairman of the County Historical Commission, explained that the marker program will complement and supplement the ongoing state historical marker program sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission. This county marker program will feature structures and sites that have historical significance at the local level, but may not otherwise be significant enough to qualify for the Texas historical marker. Foerster went on to explain that presently the THC staff is overwhelmed with requests for state markers, and it is getting increasingly difficult to get an application approved for a state marker. As a result, more and more Texas counties are developing their own county historical marker programs. Walker County has had such a program for years, and Harris County recently started its own county historical marker program.

Foerster emphasized that this marker program is not designed to replace the Texas historical marker program. The Montgomery County Historical Commission will continue to encourage applications for state markers when they are historically significant to the State of Texas and their region. Furthermore, just like state markers, the applications for the county markers will still require support primary and secondary sources to accurately document the historical significance of the topic, and will be critically reviewed by the County Historical Commission.

The county markers will be available in three sizes for mounting on a wall or on a post, with prices ranging from \$525 to about \$2,000. It will be produced by the Southwell Company in San Antonio, the same company that produces the Texas historical marker along with numerous other county historical markers.

For more information see: [Montgomery County Historical Commission website](#)

## BEAUMONT HERITAGE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIRES

On November 18, 2014, the Beaumont Heritage Society hosted a reception honoring retiring Executive Director, Darlene Chodzinski, at the Women's Club of Beaumont. Ms. Chodzinski has been a voice for historic preservation for many years. She testified in the suit to preserve the South Park School, appeared at many Beaumont City council meetings urging the restoration of the Tyrrell Park Community Building, was instrumental in bringing the Chambers House Museum to its present glory, and most recently spoke out on the need to preserve the iconic Pig Stand on Calder.

At the reception Darlene shared her retirement plans include moving to the Hill country. We wish her well in her retirement, and thank her for her many contributions to historic preservation in our community.



Darlene Chodzinski

Photo Credit: [Beaumont Enterprise](#)

## INTERIM DISTRICT CLERK RETIRES

The Jefferson County District Clerk's Office invites you to join them in honoring Jane Birge, Interim District Clerk, on her upcoming retirement, on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. in the Jury Impaneling Room at the Jefferson County Courthouse.

Ms. Birge chaired the 75th Anniversary Committee that organized the celebration in 2006 of the dedication of the 1931 historic Jefferson County Courthouse.

Jane has been a tremendous help to the Historical Commission through the years and will be greatly missed.



Jane Birge

Photo Credit: [Beaumont Enterprise](#)

## 2015 PRESERVATION DAY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 19 IN AUSTIN

SAVE THE DATE!

Preservation Day at the State Capitol is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th in Austin. Preservationists will have an opportunity to meet with state legislators in support of preservation issues. The 2015 Most Endangered Places list will be announced as well. Details about the schedule and how to register are forthcoming.

Credit: [Preservation Texas website](#)

## DICK DOWLING CAMP CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Dick Dowling Camp will be holding its Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 PM at the saloon at the Gladys City Boomtown Museum.

The camp is providing a Honey Bee Ham and beverages. Please bring your favorite holiday side dish or dessert!

We will be doing our customary "white elephant gift" exchange, too. So, if you'd like to participate, bring a wrapped gift. It can be something nice or something nutty that been cluttering up your house. If you purchase a gift, please don't spend more than ten bucks.

We will also be accepting donated items for our traditional Christmas silent auction. Proceeds go to our OCR scholarship fund. Get ready for the usual good natured bidding war!

Those wanting to give a stuffed animal to Children's Protective Services, can bring them to the party, and we'll deliver them.

2015 camp officers will be sworn and assume their duties.

PLEASE RSVP BY RESPONDING TO [Michael.E.McGreevy@dupont.com](mailto:Michael.E.McGreevy@dupont.com)  
AND LET US KNOW WHAT DISH YOU PLAN ON BRINGING.

This party will be in lieu of the regular December meeting.

[Dick Dowling Camp website](#)

**PRESERVATION TEXAS  
2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AGENDA**

Preservation Texas has established three legislative priorities for the 2015 Texas legislative session. Collectively, these agency-driven priorities create a cohesive set of public investments and private incentives that provide the basis for a transformative approach to community redevelopment statewide through historic preservation.

1. Fully fund the Historic Courthouse Preservation Program
2. Uncap Revenue from the Sporting Goods Sales Tax (SGST)
3. Protect the New State Historic Preservation Tax Credit

Credit: [Preservation Texas website](#)

**TEXAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT WORKSHOP**

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 - 10:00am to 2:30pm

JW Marriott Houston Downtown, 806 Main Street, Houston Texas 77002

Texas' new state tax credit for rehabilitating historic commercial buildings goes into effect on January 1, 2015. The new 25 percent state historic tax credit, widely considered to be one of the most effective historic investment incentives in the nation, can be combined with the existing 20 percent federal historic rehabilitation tax credit. Whether utilizing one or both of the credits, these incentives can significantly assist the financing of historic rehabilitation projects.

Preservation Houston will introduce the Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit during a workshop for developers, architects, Realtors, investors, community leaders and any other interested individuals on Tuesday, December 9. Presenters include Texas Historical Commission's Sharon Fleming and Valerie Magolan, Anna Mod of SWCA Environmental Consultants and tax credit strategist Ben Dupuy, plus a variety of developers who can discuss the practical application of the tax credits to historic rehabilitation projects. Breakout sessions will allow participants to discuss small- to large-scale projects.

Admission is \$75 per person (\$65 for Preservation Houston members) and includes lunch. Reservations and advance payment are required; [reserve your seats online now](#).

## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Museum of the Gulf Coast

Saturday, December 13, 2014. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

#### Activities Include

Holiday Arts and Crafts

Holiday Games

All day art activity with local area artist Summer Lydick  
Becky Valls Dance Company performances "*For the Birds*" at  
10:30 and 11:30

Audubon Society Live Bird Presentation at 1 PM  
Sleigh Rides to Pompeii Villa for hot chocolate 10-3



Museum of the Gulf Coast  
Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



Chambers House  
Photo Credit: chambershouse.org

### Beaumont Heritage Society - Events

Christmas Open House & Candlelight Tour

When: Saturday, December 6, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Chambers House Museum

When: Sunday, December 7, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: John Jay French House Museum

Cost: Both events are free!

### McFaddin Ward House

Join us at the McFaddin-Ward House Museum on Saturday, December 13, from 1-4 p.m., for our annual holiday open house. Make the McFaddin-Ward House your home for the holidays and join us to enjoy a simpler, more peaceful Christmastime. Tour the first floor of the museum (with the halls fully decked), try your hand at Christmas activities, and sample traditional Christmas cookies and punch while you relax and listen to music of the season. The event is free and open to the public.



McFaddin Ward House  
Photo Credit: mcfaddin-ward.org

**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

1149 Pearl Street  
Third Floor  
Beaumont, TX 77701

Tel: 409-835-8701

E-mail:

histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us  
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/)

---

McFaddin Ward  
House

Photo Credit:

[Beaumont](#)

[Enterprise website](#)



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2013 - 2014

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Prosperie

Immediate Past Chairman, Ron Ellington

**PAUL TANNER'S PASSION FOR  
ARCHEOLOGY REMEMBERED**

**JCHC MINI-MUSEUM**

**DECEMBER, 2014**

Each year the Texas Historical Commission, along with the Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC), celebrate October as Texas Archeology Month. It is also appropriate that this is the month we are celebrating the life of former member Paul Tanner who passed away in January of this year. For many years, Paul served as the Archeology Chair for the JCHC.

Paul, an amateur scientist, helped preserve Texas Prehistory. His records and collection of artifacts from McFaddin Beach are permanently curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin. Some of his personal finds

were also donated to the Jefferson County Historical Commission archives.

Paul, a quiet gentle man, will be greatly missed.

Many thanks to JCHC member Brenda Jackson, Volunteer Archeological Steward, for her hard work in putting the mini-museum exhibit together which includes photos of Paul with his collections and documentation of his many archeology finds on McFaddin Beach.

The exhibit will be on display until the restoration of the first floor of the courthouse gets underway.