

# JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2017, ISSUE 3

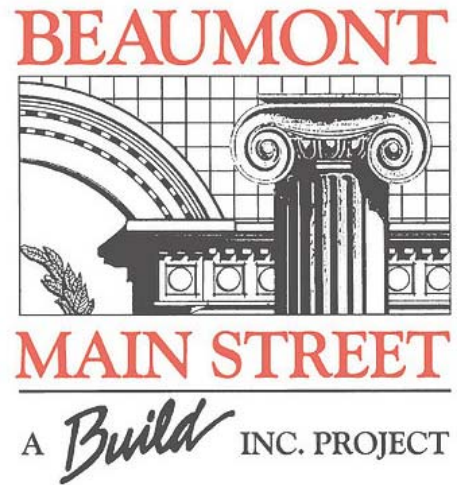
## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

On May 11, 2017, Beaumont Main Street will celebrate their 25th anniversary at the Event Centre in Beaumont. An award winning organization whose mission is to revitalize Beaumont's historic Central Business District, Beaumont Main Street has consistently promoted downtown Beaumont through film festivals at the beautifully restored Jefferson Theater, annual DOG-toberfest, and offering assistance with attaining historic tax credits. Congratulations to our preservation partner!

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

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Beaumont Main Street Logo  
Credit: [Beaumont Main Street website](#)

### VOLUME 2017, ISSUE 3

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### MAY, 2017

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Jefferson County Fast Facts
- \* Texas Legislative News

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

**\$220,503**

Cost for county to purchase 155 voting machines from the Shoup Voting Machine Company of Philadelphia in September, 1949. This amount is equivalent to \$2.25 million in 2017 dollars.

**\$2.00**

Rate per day, per inmate, county charged U.S. Department of Justice to keep federal prisoners in county jail in 1960. This amount did not include hospital care.

**\$28,260**

Cost in 1990 to repair the front and back concrete steps to the Sub-Courthouse in Port Arthur.

## TEXAS LEGISLATIVE NEWS

THC has alerted us to two identical, proposed bills that have been filed in the House ( HB3265 by Representative Donna Howard) and Senate (SB 1630 by Senator Dawn Buckingham). These bills address several matters relating to the Health & Safety Code including:

- definitions for terms currently used in the law
- introduction of new definitions and a process for verification for filing record of unknown cemeteries
- landowner notification requirements for Notice of Existence of Cemetery filings
- concurrent reporting to landowners and THC for unverified cemeteries
- removal of the state registrar permit requirement for exhumations from certain types of cemeteries
- the inclusion of municipal or county cemeteries as options for reburial

You may track future activity of HB 3265 and SB 1630 via the Texas Legislature Online website (<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>).

## JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2017

May 17, 2017	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX
July 19, 2017	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX
September 20, 2017	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX
November 15, 2017	Noon	JCHC Conference Room, Third Floor 1149 Pearl Street, 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 [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

# HERITAGE HAPPY HOUR MAGNOLIA CEMETERY TOUR BY PAUL PROSPERIE



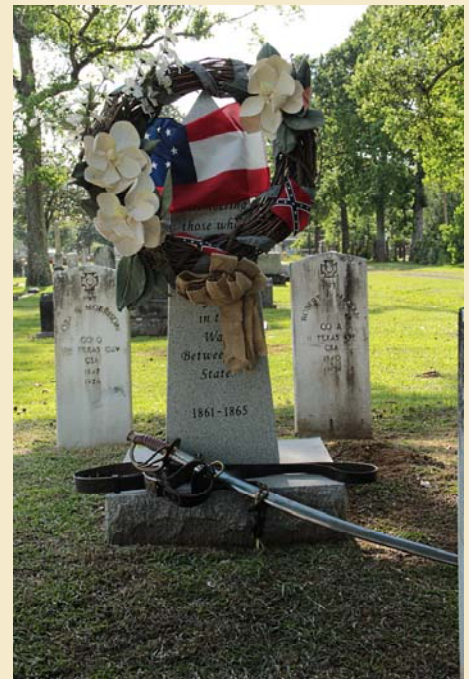
Magnolia Cemetery Historical Marker  
Photo Credit: JCHC Marker Booklet

On April 20, the Beaumont Heritage Society held their Bi-monthly Heritage Happy Hour, at Magnolia Cemetery. Overall, the 96 who attended were able to listen to stationed docents talk on early residents, and the history of Beaumont. Some of the talks included Sculptor Herring Coe, Journalist Florence Stratton, and the Original Magnolia Cemetery plots. The JCHC was well represented at this event. Members Bruce Hamilton, Jen Trenbeath, and Paul Prosperie did docent duties, while Jimmy Sparks oversaw the affair. Steven Lewis and Don Smart were also on hand to help out. Other volunteers included Judith Linsley, Gloria Ayres, and Sherman Hare. We thank all who made this another successful event.

Our next event at Magnolia Cemetery will be 130th-anniversary commemoration August 3, from 5-7 pm.

The full Cemetery tour is slated once again for early October. More details are coming soon.

Magnolia Cemetery Tour  
Photo Credit: Paul Prosperie



Gravestones of Confederate Soldiers  
Magnolia Cemetery  
Photo Credit: Paul Prosperie

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION NEWS

On May 7, 2017, THC will offer free admission to 20 state historic sites. The state preserves and operates 21 historic sites, but this year the National Museum of the Pacific War will not be participating. In east Texas the sites are:

- Caddo Mounds in Alto
- Mission Dolores in San Augustine
- Starr Family Home in Marshall
- the Varner-Hogg Plantation in West Columbia
- Levi Jordan Plantation in Brazoria
- Sabine Pass Battleground in Jefferson County

For more information check out THC's [Historic Heights - State Historic Sites Update](#)

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THC will soon be releasing a five minute web movie about the Goliad Massacre. The film was shot using 360 ° video and tells the story of an infamous moment in the Texas Revolution when General Antonio López de Santa Anna ordered the execution on March 27, 1836, of 342 unarmed men under the command of Colonel James W. Fannin.

The men had surrendered after the Battle of Coleto in Goliad County and expected to be treated as prisoners of war, although Fannin had surrendered his men "subject to the disposition of the supreme government" of Mexico. A Mexican congressional decree of December 30, 1835, ordered captured armed rebels to be executed as pirates, and subsequently General Santa Anna ordered Fannin's entire command, along with William Ward and the Georgia Battalion, to be executed on Palm Sunday.

The bodies of the men were burned and left exposed to animals and the elements until June 3, 1836, when General Thomas Rusk gathered the remains and buried them with military honors. The site was unmarked until 1858 when a merchant, George von Dohlen, placed a pile of rocks at the believed location. In 1936 money was appropriated to build a pink granite monument which was dedicated in June of 1938.

Watch the movie trailer on THC's website [here](#) and learn more about the massacre at the [Handbook of Texas](#).

Monument at Goliad Massacre

Photo Credit: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Monument\\_at\\_Goliad\\_Massacre.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Monument_at_Goliad_Massacre.jpg)



# BEAUMONT MAIN STREET ANNOUNCEMENT OF 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

*Save the Date to Celebrate Downtown*

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017

AN EVENING AT THE EVENT CENTRE

*Celebrating Beaumont Main Street's*  
**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

KEYNOTE BY MR. JOHN L. NAU, III

PRESIDENT, TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PRESENTING THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION'S

TEXAS TREASURE BUSINESS AWARD

TO HISTORIC BEAUMONT BUSINESSES



Thursday, May 11, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.

The Event Centre – Downtown Beaumont – 700 Crockett Street

Mr. Larry Beaulieu, Master of Ceremonies

Mr. John L. Nau, III, Keynote Speaker  
Chairman, Texas Historical Commission President & CEO, Silver Eagle Distributors

About our speaker, Mr. John L. Nau, III:

Mr. John L. Nau, III is the president and chief executive officer of Silver Eagle Distributors of Houston, Texas, the largest Anheuser-Busch distributor in the United States. Mr. Nau is the current chairman of the Texas Historical Commission, and served previously in the position from 1995 until 2009. Mr. Nau has also dedicated his life to national preservation efforts, serving on the board of the National Parks Foundation, the Civil War Trust, as well as the President appointed National Council on Historic Preservation. We are proud of Mr. Nau's dedication to historic preservation in the state of Texas and the United States, and are honored to welcome him to Beaumont.

About the Texas Treasure Business Award:

The Texas Treasure Business Award Program recognizes the accomplishments of Texas businesses that have provided employment opportunities and support to the state's economy for at least 50 years. The program pays tribute to the state's well-established local businesses and their exceptional historical contributions toward the state's economic growth and prosperity. This award will be presented in a partnership between the Texas Historical Commission & Beaumont Main Street.

Contact Beaumont Main Street for tickets at 409.838.2202 or email: [development@beaumontmainstreet.org](mailto:development@beaumontmainstreet.org)

Credit: [Beaumont Main Street website](#)

# JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE TOUR



Front Entrance Jefferson County Courthouse  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness



1931 Jefferson County Courthouse  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

On April 1, 2017, the Reaud Honors College at Lamar University and the Beaumont Foundation of America scheduled a tour of the historic Jefferson County Courthouse and downtown Beaumont for the Great Plains Honors Council—2017 Conference. At Commissioner Eddie Arnold's request, the Jefferson County Commissioner's Court approved opening the building on this Saturday and appropriated funds for courthouse security to cover the event.

JCHC provided printed courthouse history brochures and other information for the tour participants.

Thanks to Professor Richard Gachot from Lamar University for leading the courthouse guided tour and downtown walking tour and sharing our history with these gifted students, who no doubt left Beaumont with a greater appreciation of our rich architectural history and specifically our beautiful Art Deco historic courthouse.

## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS



Museum of the Gulf Coast

May 6- August 26, 2017—Betting, Booze and Brothels

A long-awaited exhibition created by the Museum on crime and vice in Texas and Louisiana based on the book by Laura O'Toole and Wanda Landrey deals with the history of gambling, bootlegging, prostitution, and government corruption in this area from Prohibition to the James Commission (1960s). Credit: [Museum of the Gulf Coast website](http://www.museumofthegulfcoast.org)



Museum of the Gulf Coast

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



Heritage Happy Hour

Photo Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](http://www.beaumontheritagesociety.org)

### Beaumont Heritage Society

Heritage Happy Hour June 15, 2017

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Just a short drive to the country, the Clifton Steamboat Museum will host Heritage Happy Hour. Explore the eclectic collection of art, original bronze sculptures, military and Boy Scout memorabilia, and even a 1938 tugboat! Enjoy craft beer or wine (non-alcoholic beverages also available) while perusing the various exhibits in this unique complex. Heritage Happy Hour is always FREE to members and \$10 for non-members 21+. The Clifton Steamboat Museum is located at 8727 Highway 124 (Fannett Rd.) in Beaumont.

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

### McFaddin-Ward House Museum

May 4, 2017 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

1906 McFaddin Avenue, Beaumont, TX 77701

It's our annual Spring Picnic at the McFaddin-Ward House! Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, drinks and food. We'll provide the beautiful backdrop of our southern family home and gardens....plus a live band, food truck, face painting, arts, crafts, and fun. Children are so welcome, but unless it's a service animal, please leave the pets (and cigarettes) at the front gate. See you there!

Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](http://www.mcfaddinwardhouse.com)



McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Photo Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](http://www.mcfaddinwardhouse.com)

**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.*

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

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Jonas Chaison,  
Revolutionary Soldier  
Marker placed in Pipkin  
Park by Daughters of the  
American Revolution  
Photo Credit: Theresa  
Goodness



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2016 - 2017

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

2nd Vice-Chairman, Paul Prosperie

Secretary/Treasurer, Linda McMahan

Brenda Jackson

## **PRESERVATION TEXAS**

### **HB 3418 Threatens Historic Districts**

Preservation Texas reports on HB 3418 which is a bill relating to municipal zoning affecting places or areas of historical, cultural, or architectural importance and significance. According to the [article](#) this bill would make it more difficult to enact preservation zoning ordinances by requiring a supermajority of three fourths of both the local planning or zoning board and the city council. It also requires an event associated with a site be “widely recognized” as historic before a landmark designation can be assigned.

The status of the bill as of May 1, 2017, is “Left Pending in Committee”.

Read the full text of the bill [here](#).

Credit: [Preservation Texas website](#)