



THE LOOKOUT



Summer 2016

www.museumofthegulfcoast.org

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It seems that Summer was gone before it even started, so this is more of a Late Summer addition of The Lighthouse. But it has been an interesting and productive Summer for the Museum, nonetheless. Our *EnviroKids* summer camps were as popular as usual and the kids got to have a great time – as usual. The Traveling exhibit from NASA, *Exploring the Universe*, allowed visitors of all ages to become astronauts by climbing inside a real spacesuit. The associated Family Fun Day brought in ___ people for crafts, activities and the PIXAR film *Wall E*.

Late Summer has seen the installation of our newest temporary exhibit, the Jefferson County Scavenger Hunt.

Summer sure went by fast and sign up and see how many of the local landmarks you can find! With the coming Fall we look

Back to School!
Right, Carver Elementary 2nd Grade, Miss Eloise Johnson's class, ca 1952

Rotary Club of Port...
Got more info? Call us!

We will also notice some c new web page. We no ability to shop online f Gift Shop. The new w more user-f easier to navigate. So awhile since you have you have guests from c please make a point of There just might be something new at your Museum.

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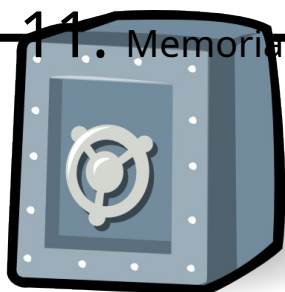
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A review!



INSIDE THE VAULT

The Museum stores its collections inside of two bank vaults.
"Inside the Vault" showcases items not usually on display.

We have wanted to update our Sports Legends exhibit and finally did it! His mother, Candace Henry Mathews, sometimes, we are so busy that we just can't get it done. It requires several people because they are all so busy. When displayed, we do appreciate it! We are sorry it took so long to get these items



“Why don’t you just get a GRANT?”

Sarah Bellian, Curator

The recent demolition of buildings in the 400 block of Procter Street including the former Keyhole Club, and the sorry condition of Port Arthur’s historic Rose Hill have led to a storm of questions which I’ve been doing my best to answer. Some people wonder how things got so bad, others wonder why proposed renovations cost so much, and generally speaking, nobody is very happy with the situation. Nor should they be. It’s always sad to lose our history. But what can we do about it?

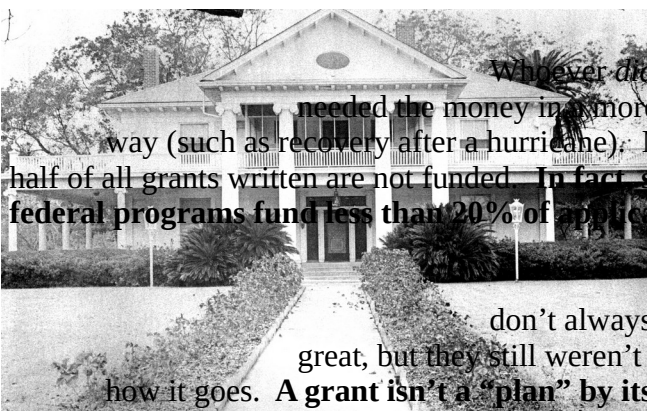
A common question is “Why don’t you just get a grant?”

The answer to that is simple. We’d *love* to get a grant. Actually, here at the Museum we spend a lot of our time *trying* to get grants. But grants are not like loans. We can’t just get one just because we need one (for the record, we *always* need one).

Grants are highly competitive, and for every funding source which exists, many people are constantly trying to get a piece of it.

A successful grant is **feasible** (it can be done), **desirable** (there are people, businesses, and/or other foundations supporting the project), **useful** (it fulfills a need you can demonstrate using statistics), and most of all, **sustainable** (it plans for the future). For example, restoring Rose Hill, which was formerly used as a rental for weddings, would be impossible to fund with a grant. First, it would not be *sustainable* (it already cannot pay for its own repairs). Second, a wedding rental is not *useful* enough. How many people will it serve? How badly does the community need it? If this same home was a women’s shelter, or used for essential city offices, a grant might be available. Essentially, to get a grant for something we *want*, we have to prove that it is something our community *needs*. We do this using statistics, partnerships with other organizations, and matching donations (Example: If Joe gives \$5,000, Chevron will give \$5,000).

Some grant applications take a long time to prepare (they may want your institution’s entire operating budget, so they can decide if you spend money wisely). It’s a little bit like doing taxes 8-10 times per year.



Snow on the ground at Rose Hill, 1988.



Of course, even perfect grants are not always funded. ~~Whoever did~~ get the grant we were denied may have ~~needed the money in a~~ more immediate, demonstrable way (such as recovery after a hurricane). More than half of all grants written are not funded. ~~In fact, some federal programs fund less than 20% of applicants.~~

So why don’t we “get a grant”? To be honest, we don’t always know. A few of our past grants were great, but they still weren’t funded. That’s just how it goes. **A grant isn’t a “plan” by itself. It’s just something that can help make a good plan work.**

Education Corner

Stephanie Harren, Education Coordinator

Rocket To the Moon!

by Teen Troupe Reporter Taylor Babino

On Saturday, July 9, 2016, I volunteered for the Family Fun Day at the Museum of Gulf Coast which was themed NASA, astronauts and the solar system. While volunteering I got a chance to interview Jackie who brought her son to participate in all of the fun. She told me that she loved how interactive the projects and crafts were and also how much her and her son learned about our solar system. Her son said his favorite activity was being able to eat what the astronauts ate. He was able to taste a freeze dried ice cream sandwich.

[OBJ]

Jackie and her son enjoying Family Fun Day.

[OBJ]

Teen Troupe Volunteer Lauren serving freeze-dried ice cream.

Family Fun Day events at the Gulf Coast of Museum are given about every other month. These events are for all ages to enjoy and has a different theme each time which keeps the guests wanting more. My personal favorite is the annual Christmas Family Fun Day which has so many surprises. We know you wouldn't want to miss any of this fun so, you are welcome to join us at our next Family Fun Day on October 8th for our 2nd Annual Children's Art Competition and the opening of *Wildlife*. Hope to see you there!



Teen Troupe Volunteer Jordyn selling astronaut snacks.



Teen Troupe Volunteer Kendra helping a family make a solar system.



Guests busy with so many different activities.

KID'S CORNER

Did you know...

The marshmallow treat we buy at the store once was made from the root of a plant, which can be found in Southeast Texas. The root was whipped like egg whites to make marshmallows.

The Greek name for marshmallow, *Althea*, means "marshmallow root". The marshmallow root was used for healing bruises. In the Middle Ages, the sap of the plant was commonly used to treat coughs and sore throats.



When used by herbalists today, marshmallow root is often in the form of a tea or a cold infusion (a tea made with cold water). It is still used as a remedy for heartburn, ulcers, colds, flu, and urinary infections.

Museum of the Gulf Coast Wildlife Art Contest

Alligators, lizards, and snakes OH MY! The Museum of the Gulf Coast offers youngsters who are interested in art an outlet to use their creative talents and practice their artistry skills through the creation of original artwork.

Children ages 3-18 are eligible for entry. All entries MUST portray Texas wildlife. Artists have a chance to win prizes in each of the age categories: 6 and under, 7-12, 13-15, 16-18. Each piece of artwork MUST have an entry form attached to it and meet the guidelines for entry. Winners will be announced at the FREE family fun day on October 8th, 2016

For more information and to download and entry form, please visit the Museum website at
www.museumofthegulfcoast.org
Call 409-984-6453

From Trip Advisor:

Visitor Comments

- 5 stars review from sarakency02 (Port Arthur) on July 23

"Interesting and surprisingly varied — This is a place well worth a visit. The area devoted to local musicians and sports figures is amazing. It's remarkable that so many famous people came from the area! Definitely fun to see."

- 5 stars review by Linda W. on July 11

"More than what I expected — Nice way to spend a few hours. The museum has a little bit of everything. I especially enjoyed the tributes to all the musical and sport talent from the area. I was expecting more on Janis Joplin since she is from Port Arthur. The Rock n Roll hall of fame has more on Janis. But all in all I would recommend this museum."

- 5 stars review from A.G. (Lafayette, Louisiana) on July 2

"A Highlight of Port Arthur — A nice 2-story museum located in a very barren part of Port Arthur. Upon entering, I felt that it was geared toward kids and I pictured a lot of field trips coming through. But it was very educational, showcasing the history of British, French and Spanish involvement in the area. An extremely large mural illustrates some of that history and there is a huge, 250 year old anchor, recently discovered in the Gulf. A good display of the Texan oil industry is very informative. Upstairs is a large room dedicated to dozens of famous musicians from SE Texas including Edgar & Johnny Winter, Percy Sledge, ZZ Top, and of course, Janis Joplin. Other rooms were filled with info & memorabilia of athletes, actors, dancers, and other famous people. I spent a couple of hours on my own and enjoyed it a lot."

- 5 stars review by Linda O. (Dubai, United Arab Emirates) on June 29.

"I have never ever seen a museum like this — Covers this region from before early man all the way up to Janis Joplin Jimmy Johnson the football coach Big Bopper ZZ Top Wade Phillips not to forget artwork of Robert Rauschenberg the father of pop art. This town and region is unbelievable. Music Sports art movie TV personalities and paleo-indian French explorers early North American discoveries just to mention a few. Plan to spend about 2 to 3 hours your family will love it. Kids will love the 14 foot stuffed alligator as part of the exhibit. I've gone before and I keep returning they're always adding new items and of course the pop culture makes his living breathing Museum. A true Testament that you can come from a small City and make it big on the national and international scene."

- 5 stars review by Tom N. on June 26

"I highly recommend it! I took a group of senior adults from our church to visit the museum. It was very enjoyable. Everyone really enjoyed the music and sports section of the museum as well as the history of the area section. I highly recommend taking a group there to see the museum."

- 4 stars review by Phil B (Vidor) on June 1

Social Media Update: We don't have any new reviews on Facebook since the last newsletter!

Museum Holiday Wish List

in September!



As usual, there are many things the Museum needs right now. ' for the processing room (\$225 — Ooof!). We hope that maybe i early, some of our friends will think of us this upcoming holiday season and help us kick off 2017! To make this more fun, if you send us something we need, we'll send *you* one of our Museum of the Gulf Coast ornaments and a museum mug stuffed with delicious hot chocolate.

Things We Need

Small tripod for our Canon camera (\$50)

Matching table linens for 10 round tables (132 inch — est. \$150)

Movie theater projector (\$350)

HEPA Vacuum cleaner (\$800—1500) (to clean up mold, hazardous materials)

Fletcher brand (or comparable) cutter—needs to cut mat *and* plastic! (\$600—\$1500)

Sponsors for *Electricity* (\$500-1000)

These hands-on electrical experiments will be exhibited February 4 - April 29, 2017.

Unfortunately, we did not get the grant we applied for (see the Curator's Article pg. 3), so we are hoping our members and community can help us!

Sponsoring exhibits at the Museum is tax-deductible advertising for your business!

Things We Really Want

Sponsors for *Betting, Booze, and Brothels* (\$1500 for the VIP package)

We are throwing a fabulous "Prohibition Party" to kick off *Betting, Booze, and Brothels* May 7, 2017. This event will feature food, cocktails, live music, an auction, casino games, and costumed entertainers.

Included in the limited "Sheriff Charley" VIP package will be a memorable chauffeured "mafia" pick up (at the location of your choice in Jefferson County), complimentary drinks and casino chips, and a signed copy of the book *Betting, Booze, and Brothels* which inspired the exhibit. To *really* give this one of a kind opportunity the kick of Texas moonshine (you'll get a jar of that too), we'll even put your tickets in an envelope and leave them on the seat of your car like a James Era "payoff"!

Just tell us when and where - and of course, leave the car window cracked!

For more information about what we need and how you can help, please contact the Museum at 409-982-7000 or email mogc.curator@gmail.com (yes, that's a new email!)



Local artist Albert Faggard and Vickie McMillan of the Woodlands present a joint exhibition of wildlife paintings showcasing both native species and animals from around the world. One of Ms. McMillan's pieces was exhibited previously at the Museum in the 2014 Birds in Art exhibition, and Mr. Faggard is a professor at Lamar State College—Port Arthur.

The exhibition opens Oct. 8. Following our FREE Family Fun Day, Ms. McMillan will give a gallery talk at 2:30pm. An artist's reception will follow, with both artists expected to be in attendance.

ELECTRICITY, on loan from the Franklin Institute, is a series of 16 hands-on electrical experiments that children and adults alike will surely enjoy. The exhibit will run from February 4 to April 29, 2017. Interested in becoming a sponsor? Contact the Curator at 409-982-7000.



Kelly Asbury

Born **July 15, 1960** in Beaumont

Hall of Fame Spotlight



When Kelly Asbury was 17, he wrote a letter to Disney Studios asking how to become an animator. They were impressed with his art samples and advised him to attend CalArts, which offered an animation degree. He transferred there from Lamar University in 1980.



Asbury's first project as an animator with Disney was *The Little Mermaid* in 1989. He also worked on *Beauty and the Beast* and the beloved Tim Burton film *Nightmare Before Christmas*. As animation made the shift to 3D, so did Asbury. He began his career at DreamWorks SKG in 1995 where he worked on *Shrek*, and directed both *Shrek 2* and the Oscar-nominated *Shrek the Third*. He has also worked with Pixar on *Chicken Run*, *The Prince of Egypt*, and *"Toy Story"*. He both directed and co-directed *Wreck-It Ralph*, which receive glowing reviews.

Asbury has also directed and co-directed several other animated films. His most recent project is *Wreck-It Ralph*.



Kelly Asbury (left) and Sir Elton John (right) rock similar silly sunglasses at the premier of *Gnomeo and Juliet*.



Volunteer Spotlight

Ari Karell

Interview by Sarah Bellian, Curator



face around the Museum. She was introduced to Mardi Gras and often worked the Procter Street doors with

there in 1980 due to her husband's job at GSU. She City Highway before the bank failed, and also worked for became Compass. After retiring from banking, she worked

"Where are you from?" because of her accent. She jokes from "the good part of Louisiana" and lets them wonder home.

Inquiring minds always want to know, Ari is actually Greek.

ing both Hebrew and Arabic. Jerusalem, according to Ari, is Jews and Muslims, but to many other people of different was living in Jerusalem before many of Jews emigrated s being five or six years old when they began to come in er not very impressive at all, but I told her our members ny stories to tell!

Ari has traveled all around the US and the world. One of her favorite places from a recent adventure is Ireland. She enjoys volunteering at the museum because of the opportunity to meet new people.

I certainly spent longer than I meant to chatting with Ari today, but since we both enjoy travel, I found her story especially interesting. We also spent a great deal of time talking about delicious Mediterranean food. Ari says she makes very good hummus and baklava. I told her she needs to bring some to the annual Volunteer Christmas Party! Yum!

The Museum *always* needs volunteers! We are having a Volunteer Training Day September 27 from 10am — 2pm at the Museum. Whatever your interests or skills, please come find out how you can help. We would especially like to recruit some bilingual (English/Spanish) docents (tour guides).

Society Donations and Memorials

In Memory of Margie Scott

The Thursday Bridge Group
Jerry and Elaine Creech

In Memory of Billie Brown

Mable Handal

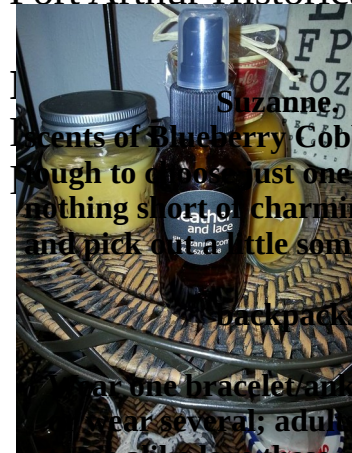
In Memory of Charles Irwin

Margaret and John Williford
Port Arthur Historical Society

Lori LaBove, Museum Store

Do you smell crème brulee?! That's our new candle scent from Jill Suzanne. Come see our new stock of candles and scented sprays. The scents of Blueberry Cobbler, Society and Leather & Lace will make it tough to choose just one fragrance. Our new Jill Suzanne merchandise is nothing short of charming... all created from repurposed products. Come and pick out a little something for yourself!

by



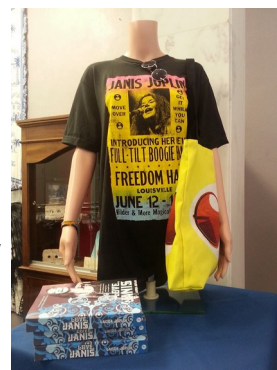
ear one bracelet and let
wear several; adults and
teens alike love these. They
are super colorful and are just
at

Don't forget about our new stock of Janis Joplin shirts, hippie coin purses,
backpacks (great for school) and hippie bracelets/anklets!



s super cool in here!

ne Gift Shop supports the Museum!





**700 Procter Street,
Port Arthur, Texas 77640
409.982.7000
www.museumofthegulfcoast.
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Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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77640

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- | | |
|--|---|
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| ☐ Couple - \$40 | ☐ Patron - \$100 |
| ☐ Family - \$50 | ☐ Benefactor - \$500 |
| ☐ Sustaining - \$75 | ☐ Life - \$1000 |

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Signature _____

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Company (Does your company match contributions? If so, what company?) _____

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