

MUSINGS

www.gregghistorical.org

Fall and Winter 2026

A PUBLICATION OF THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



In this Issue

Musing Magazine Fall/Winter 2026

Letter from the President	3
Calendar of Events	
Historic Haunts	4
Robotics Competition	5
Tiny Thinkers	
Leadership Longview Project	6-7
Dalton Days	8-9
Fashion & Firs	10-11
Living History Christmas	
Photos - The Kentucky Derby	12-13
“Where Freedom Rides”	
“Wheels That Formed A Nation”	
Preservation Award	14-15
Landmarks of Longview	16-17
Longview Cannibals	18-19
Museum Employee in Focus	
GCHM New Board Members	20-21
Meet your incoming President	
History Detective - Charlie Neal	22
Book Spotlight - Alligator Creek by Lottie Guttry	
Coming Exhibits 2027	24-25
Revitalize Campaign	
Lost Landmarks	26-27
Downtown Theaters of Gregg County	
Become a GCHM Member	
GCHM Members	28-29
Lift Off Longview	30 -31
Balloon Sculptures	



Hours
Tuesday-Friday 10am-4pm
Saturday 10am-2pm
Closed Sunday and Monday

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Sabine Fire Station/ Gregg County ESD #2

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect on the past few months here at the Gregg County Historical Museum, I am continually overwhelmed by the incredible community spirit that keeps our doors open and our history alive. Our mission to preserve and share the rich heritage of Gregg County would simply not be possible without the unwavering dedication of the people who stand beside us year after year.

First and foremost, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our volunteers and supporters. Your tireless energy, passion, and gift of time are the true heartbeat of this institution. Whether you are greeting visitors, guiding tours, or helping behind the scenes, you make this museum a success. To our members and event sponsors, thank you as well; your financial backing and continuous participation ensure that we can keep our community's history vibrant and accessible for generations to come.

We have some truly exciting changes to share, most notably in our lower level. We want to express our most sincere appreciation to the Longview Chamber of Commerce Leadership Longview class for selecting the Gregg County Historical Museum as their project. This dedicated group of community leaders rolled up their sleeves and renovated our basement, doing a wonderful job breathing new life into the space. We could not be more grateful for their hard work, vision, and dedication to our shared history.

Our work to update and enhance the museum never stops. We are continuously making improvements and we are especially thrilled to highlight ongoing updates to our military exhibit, made possible by a generous donation from Dr. Robert Galvan. This support allows us to properly honor the brave men and women from our area who have served, ensuring their stories are told with the dignity and historical accuracy they deserve.

Don't forget to visit us at our annual Landmarks of Longview Tour this year as we revisit one of our favorite neighborhoods, Nugget Hill. We can't wait for you to see the fabulous homes and structures that make this neighborhood unique and significant to our history. Make sure you come and check out the museum during my favorite time of the year, Christmas! Beautifully decorated trees and wreaths will be on display for auction along with other wonderful items! Closing out the year is our annual Living History Christmas which is a fun and FREE event for all! The trains will be on display along with the very special world famous Kilgore Rangerettes!

Thank you all once again for being such an integral part of our family. Together, we are safeguarding our past while building a bright future for our community.

Angela Choy

Front Cover 1914 Postcard

FREDONIA STREET DOWNTOWN LONGVIEW
"THE WHITE WAY" - REFERS TO THE ILLUMINATED ELECTRIC STREET
LIGHTS INSTALLED IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY.



Calendar of Events

September 8, 2026

Walk of Honor

September 18, 2026

Preservation Award Reception

September 19, 2026

Tiny Thinkers - Sports
9:00am

September 26, 2026

Landmarks of Longview Home Tour
1:00-5:00pm

October 17, 2026

Historic Haunts
6:00pm, 7:00pm & 8:00pm

October 17, 2026

Tiny Thinkers - Safari Fun
9:00 am

November 26-30, 2026

GCHM closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Open - November 25, 2026
Holiday Hours 10:00 am- 2:00 pm

December 1, 2026

Fashion & Firs
4:00-7:00pm

December 5, 2026

Living History Christmas
10:00-2:00pm

December 19, 2026

Tiny Thinkers -Let's Talk About Trains!
9:00 am

December 23, 2026-January 11, 2027

Closed -Christmas/New Year Holiday

January 16, 2027

Tiny Thinkers -Circus time!
9:00 am

February and March 2027

Voices of the South

February 20, 2027

Tiny Thinkers-Transportation
9:00 am

Spring and Summer 2027

Boombox Generation



HISTORIC HAUNTS & LEGENDS OF LONGVIEW DOWNTOWN

SAT, OCT 17, 2026

HAUNTED WALKING TOURS
EVERYTHING VAGUELY PARANORMAL GROUP
6PM, 7PM & 8PM - \$10 PER TICKET

TOUR BEGINS
GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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SCAN QR TO BUY
YOUR TICKETS

FOLLOW US ON



This program is made possible, in part, through a
grant from the City of Longview.

2026 ROBOTICS COMPETITION

A big thank you to **Komatsu** for sponsoring the **4th Annual Robotics Showcase!** Thanks to this support, participating schools had the opportunity to win prize money benefiting Robotic programs. Over 160 students participated in the competition. The **Gregg County Historical Museum** would like to recognize Jon Carter for his hard work and dedication in making this event a big success.



- EV3** Pine Tree Middle School
1st & 2nd place
- VEX IQ** New Diana Middle School
1st place
Pine Tree Middle School
2nd place
- VEXV5** Pine Tree High School
1st place
Christian Heritage & Big Sandy
High School 2nd place



Saturdays are
for fun days!



TINY THINKERS

AT THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

KIDS 5 AND YOUNGER are invited for an age appropriate book followed by crafts and activities on the 3rd **Saturday** of each month from **9AM to 10AM** at the Gregg County Historical Museum. Donations Accepted.



SPORTS



SEPT 19
2026

SAFARI



OCT 17
2026

TRAINS



DEC 19
2026

CIRCUS



JAN 16
2027

TRANSPORTATION



FEB 20
2027

BUGS



MAR 20
2027

GARDENING



APR 17
2027

FARMS



MAY 15
2027

DETECTIVES



JUN 19
2027



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**SCHEDULE A
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FIELD TRIPS,
PRIVATE EVENTS,
QUIETER SETTINGS



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MUSEUM HOURS
TUES-FRI 10AM-4PM
SATURDAY 10AM-2PM
GREGG.HISTORICAL.ORG





LEADERSHIP LONGVIEW



As the Gregg County Historical Museum celebrated its 40th anniversary, it did more than honor its past, it invested in the future of local history. In partnership with Leadership Longview's Class of 2026, the museum completed a transformative project that enhanced the visitor experience through new exhibits, interactive learning spaces, and stronger community engagement. The completed goal reflected the museum's commitment to preserving Gregg County's heritage while inspiring future generations to explore the stories that shaped East Texas.

The project introduced several exciting exhibit enhancements for visitors of all ages. The Kids Zone was expanded with *Local Legends*, an interactive exhibit celebrating Gregg County's outstanding athletes, and *Mic Drops & Music Stops*, highlighting the area's talented musicians and artists. The *Homeland & Heritage* exhibit was upgraded with a life-size Caddo hut and a hands-on archaeological dig site, giving families and young visitors an engaging way to explore the history, culture, and daily life of the region's earliest inhabitants. The museum also completed renovations to its Texas Rangers Exhibit, offering an updated look at the legendary law enforcement agency and its connection to Gregg County.

These improvements marked more than GCHM's 40th anniversary and invested in the future of the community. By combining education with interactive experiences, the Gregg County Historical Museum created new opportunities for visitors to connect with local history. As the museum begins its next chapter, it remains dedicated to preserving the stories of Gregg County.

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7



GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

WILD WEST SHOW



Dalton Days was a tremendous success, bringing the community together under beautiful weather for a memorable celebration of history and hometown pride. Visitors enjoyed a vibrant lineup of vendors, engaging activities, and a welcoming atmosphere throughout the event. The festivities culminated in the **Longview 250 Parade**, showcasing local spirit and tradition, followed by an unforgettable **Laser Light Show** that lit up the night sky. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who attended and helped make this year's **Dalton Days** such a special occasion.



Mark your calendar April 3, 2027



DALTON DAYS



THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE, IN PART, THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE CITY OF LONGVIEW!



**Patsy Hollandsworth
Family Foundation**



**Dexter, Clark,
Henry, Benjamin
& Nicholas Choy**



Bruce & Mimi Cammack



**Judge Bill Stoudt
Gregg County**



Crain Foundation



Elyse & Steve McCoskey

THANK YOU! GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM SPONSORS



Fashion & Firs

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026

4:00PM-7:00PM

Fun, Fabulous & Free



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LOCAL ARTISANS & BOUTIQUES

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ONLINE AUCTION



Living History Christmas

FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026

10AM - 2PM



Holiday Magic Continues

DECEMBER 8, 2026 - DECEMBER 23, 2026

**GCHM
214 N. FREDONIA ST.
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903-753-5840**

**HOURS
TUES-FRI 10AM-4PM
SAT 10AM-2PM**

- *Family-friendly holiday celebration
- *Featuring the beloved TRAIN exhibit
- *Includes the Nationwide America 250 initiative
- *GCHM transforms into a magical holiday setting
- *Celebrate local traditions, history, and holiday cheer



This program made possible, in part, through a grant from the City of Longview.

A LOOK AT 2026 The Kentucky Derby



The Cherokee Club welcomed guests for its **9th Annual Kentucky Derby Party**, an evening filled with Southern charm and Derby traditions. The event brought together friends and supporters for a memorable celebration inspired by the excitement of the *Kentucky Derby*. Festive hats, colorful attire, and a lively atmosphere made for a picture-perfect evening.

Guests enjoyed a delicious menu and an evening of fellowship in the Cherokee Club's beautiful lakeside setting. The celebration also featured a variety of friendly competitions that showcased the creativity and style of attendees. Jo Popma earned the *Judge's Choice Award*, Sheri and Terry Johnston received *Best All Around*, and Michelle Davis was recognized as *Best Dressed*. Awards were sponsored by Sabrina and Chase Wildt.

The Kentucky Derby continues to be a favorite annual event with amazing food, fun fellowship, and plenty of Derby flair. *Derby 2026*, a tremendous success!

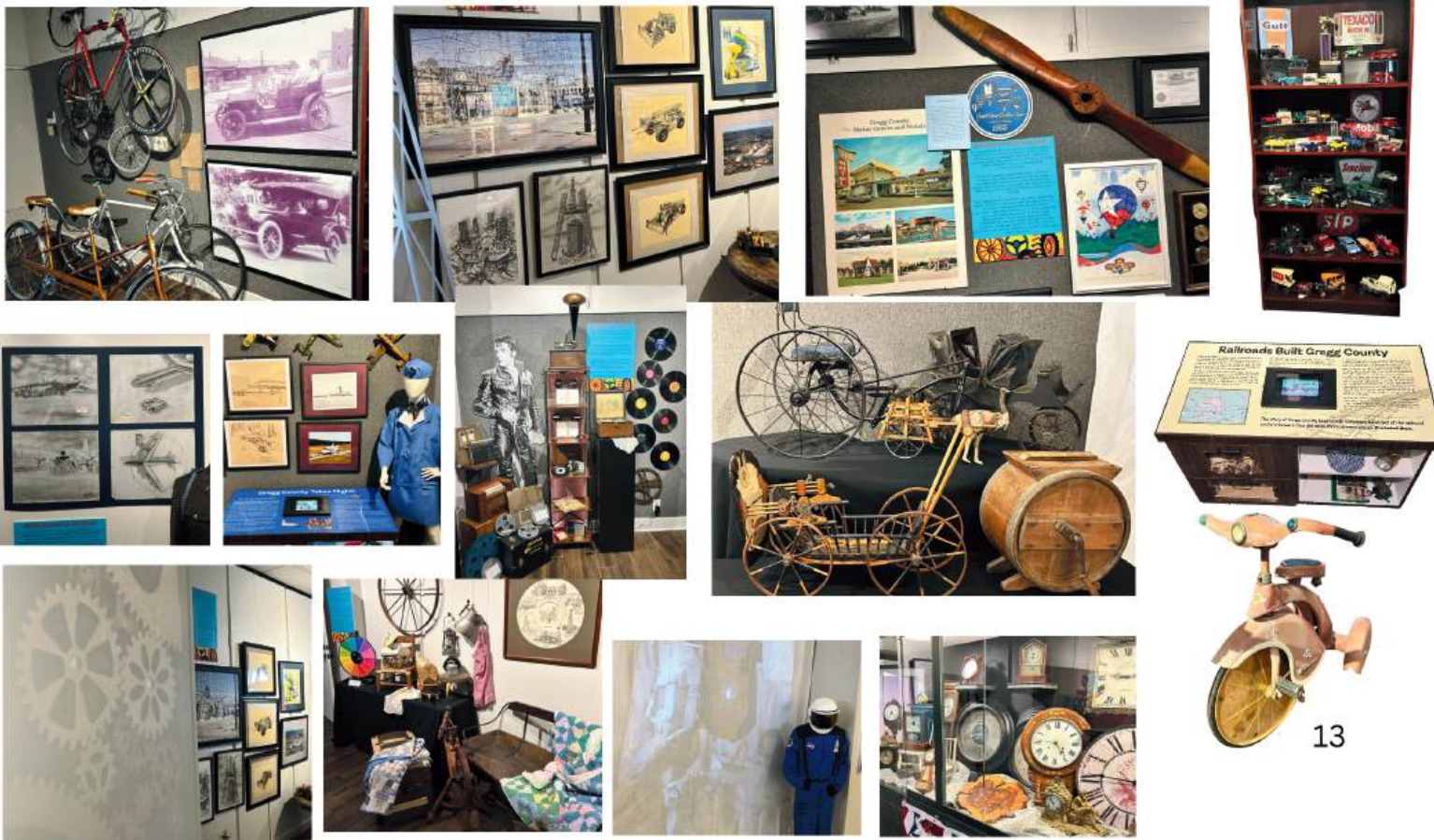




RECAP OF . . .

“WHERE FREEDOM RIDES”

AND “WHEELS THAT FORMED A NATION”



Preservation Award Recipient



*Barbara
Thomas Pool*

"Barbara has been a dedicated supporter of GCHM for many years, contributing her time and energy to countless volunteer efforts. We are fortunate to recognize her with this honor, which she has graciously accepted. The Preservation Award is the Museum's highest honor, and Barbara is a truly deserving recipient in recognition of her longstanding commitment, service, and contributions to our events."

-Frank Jackson

Barbara Thomas Pool has made a lasting contribution to Longview's civic and cultural life. Her influence extends far beyond the organizations she served. When others focused on limitations, she recognized opportunities. Her confidence in what could be achieved inspired people to invest their time, talents, and energy in the community, leaving a legacy that continues to shape Longview today.

Born on January 4, 1949, to Margaret and Naseep Thomas, Barbara grew up in Longview surrounded by family, community, and opportunity. Raised on Sixth Street alongside her brothers, John Nay Thomas and George Preston Thomas, she developed an appreciation for service and connection that would become hallmarks of her life.

Barbara's educational journey took her from First Ward School and Bramlette Elementary to Forest Park Junior High and Longview High School, where she graduated in 1967. Eager to broaden her horizons, she attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, earning an Associate of Arts degree before completing a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing at Southern Methodist University in 1971.

Her professional career began with Roth Associates, an advertising and public relations firm in Garland. Although she enjoyed the experience, East Texas soon called her home. Returning to Longview, Barbara built a successful career in real estate, working with R.B. Williams Real Estate and later Smith-Thomas Real Estate.

Throughout her life, Barbara has embraced new opportunities and challenges. One of the most exciting came in 1993 when she joined the team responsible for revitalizing the historic First National Bank Building, later known as the Summit Club. Barbara brought energy, vision, and a deep commitment to the landmark's mission, helping it grow from a historic site into a thriving center of community life. For more than a decade, her leadership was central to her success.

Family has always been at the center of Barbara's life. She is the proud mother of George W. "Ivey" Strunk IV, whose career as an Apple Computer educator reflects the spirit that has

guided Barbara throughout her life. Like Barbara, he approaches each challenge with curiosity and a determination to make a positive difference through learning and service. In 2005, Barbara married Philip Pool, the love of her life and sadly lost him to brain cancer in 2010.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Barbara is perhaps best known for her extraordinary record of community service. Over the years, she has devoted countless hours to organizations that enrich the educational, cultural, and civic life of East Texas. Her involvement has included leadership roles with the Junior League of Longview, the Women's Council of Realtors, Federated Women's Clubs, Community Theater, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Longview Independent School District Foundation, Good Shepherd Hospital Auxiliary, and she currently attends Alpine Church of Christ.

Her passion for preserving local history led to service on the advisory board of the Gregg County Historical Museum, as well as her support of Panola College, economic development initiatives, the local opera board, and downtown development efforts. Neighbors know her as someone who welcomes others, works tirelessly, and celebrates the accomplishments of those around her. Through decades of professional achievement and civic involvement, she has left an indelible mark on Longview and helped shape the community we enjoy today.

Barbara's leadership extended to serving as president of several influential organizations, including the University of Texas at Tyler Longview Center, the Kiwanis Auxiliary, and the Longview Fine Arts Club. In each role, she brought vision, enthusiasm, and a talent for inspiring others to get involved.

Today, her legacy can be found not only in the organizations she has served but also in the countless lives she has touched along the way. Her story reflects a life spent investing in people and strengthening the community she loves. It demonstrates how steady dedication, carried out over many years, can create a legacy that endures. Barbara has embodied the spirit of East Texas in the way she lives and serves.

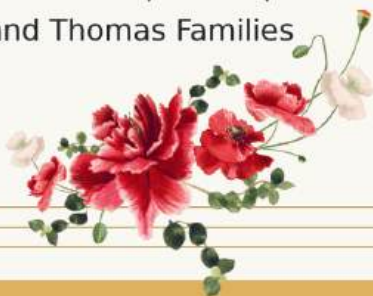


Thank you for your
tireless efforts and for
continuing to be
an *inspiration* to us all.
You truly are an *angel*!



We love you!

The Mack, Sheikh,
and Thomas Families



Landmarks of LONGVIEW



GCHM

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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26th Annual Gregg County Historical Museum Architectural Home Tour

Saturday, September 26, 2026
Tour Times
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Tickets available for purchase at the
Gregg County Historical Museum
or Humanitix.com



SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS
\$25

Pick-up Tickets Sept. 22nd-25th at
GCHM during regular business hours

Kitty & Davis Sherman



800 Charlotte Drive

This lovely 1930's stunner on The National Registry of Historic Places welcomes you upon entering the garden gate. The bricked front porch with its delightful cover and the entry door is reminiscent of a former era. Upon entry, you step into a world of wonderful color, patterns, art and antiques. Don't miss the wrought iron stair railing, the use of eclectic art pieces throughout, family antiques-many from faraway places, other special vintage/antique family pieces, the very unique lighting, the interesting use of wallpaper and tilework, the inspiring ceilings and the list goes on and on. The attention to detail is evident in every room. The pool, patio and outdoor area blends seamlessly with the home's interior and includes an outdoor kitchen, a guest house and an awesome "treehouse/play structure." The pool, tile, brick, shade awning, furniture and plants are all planned perfectly for this home. Every space reflects a thoughtful balance of historic character. From the carefully curated interiors to the beautifully designed outdoor living spaces, this remarkable property showcases the classic appeal of one of Longview's prized historic homes.

Located in the South Main Historic District, this charming 1930's cottage recently received an addition larger than the original home. The previous owner provided a complete renovation of the original portion- refinishing the oak hardwood floors, designing a well-appointed kitchen, adding quartz, marble and designer tiles, all to dress this quaint home for modern living.

Purchased in 2024 by the current owner, the new addition was completed by *Insight Custom Homes* to integrate with the original home's special elements- hardwood floors, wood framed windows and repeated fireplace details. Even the garage in back is aligned with the original features. Enjoy and appreciate the owner's wonderful art collection, the use of texture, pattern and color, and the thoughtful design to seamlessly blend old and new creating this lovely magazine worthy home. This home renovation is a wonderful example of preserving the character of a historic neighborhood while embracing the comforts and style of contemporary living.

Dan Sorey



212 East College Street

This program made possible, in part, through a grant from the City of Longview.

Emma & Chris Cox



809 North Seventh Street

This charming home listed in the National Register of Historic Places was built in 1931 by Harry S. Turner. A periwinkle front screen door and original front door welcome you into a lovingly refreshed beauty which retains so much of its original charm. Other original features include the wrought iron stair railing, fireplace mantel, hardwood floors, doors, tile, and skeleton keys. The owners' love of blues and pinks are on display, including a pink piano decorated with blue and white ginger jars. The library is so cozy, the side porch inviting, and the kitchen is just right.

The second floor features four bedrooms and two baths. In addition, a major renovation in 2019 by previous owners added a third floor space that includes collectibles of posters, action figures, records and a great place to watch TV. Thoughtful updates throughout the home blend seamlessly with its historic character, creating a welcoming space that celebrates both its rich history and modern livability.

Located at 1201 Park Lane in Teague Park, the Boy Scout Hut was built in three phases and reflects the history of Boy Scout Troop 201, one of the oldest troops in Texas, established in 1917. The original log cabin was constructed in 1941 through the efforts of Scoutmaster Marcus Shuttlesworth, the Longview Lion's Club, the City of Longview, and local volunteers. A larger log meeting hall was added in 1949, followed by a metal storage addition in 1965.

Over the years, the hut has served generations of Scouts, including future Texas Governor Greg Abbott, and remains an important landmark celebrating Longview's scouting heritage. The hut stands as a testament to the community partnerships and volunteer spirit that helped shape Longview's youth programs throughout the twentieth century. Its rustic log construction and phased expansion reflect the continued growth and lasting impact of Troop 201 as scouting evolved over the decades. Today, the Boy Scout Hut remains a valued historic resource, preserving the legacy of leadership, service, and outdoor education for future generations.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 201 Cabin



1201 Park Lane

St. Anthony Catholic Church



508 North Sixth Street

St. Anthony Catholic Church in Longview features a warm and welcoming interior that reflects both beauty and reverence. The spacious sanctuary draws attention to the elevated altar, while colorful stained glass windows fill the church with natural light and depict scenes from the life of Christ and the saints. Wooden pews, vaulted ceilings, and sacred artwork create a peaceful atmosphere for worship and prayer. The interior has long served as the spiritual heart of the parish. One of the church's most distinctive features is its hand-painted ceiling, which adds remarkable artistic beauty and a sense of grandeur to the sanctuary. The intricate painted details draw the eye upward, inspiring reflection while complementing the church's traditional architectural design. Carefully preserved through the years, the hand-painted ceiling remains a beloved feature that enhances the sacred atmosphere and reflects the craftsmanship and devotion of those who created it.

Tour hour 3:00pm - 4:00pm



Gregg County Historical Museum

214 N. Fredonia St.
Downtown Longview
903-753-5840

gregghistorical.org

Hours: Tues-Fri. 10am - 4pm
Sat. 10am - 2pm

Longview Cannibals

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the unveiling of the new *Longview Cannibals Texas Historical Marker* during the Gregg County Historical Museum's Block Party at Stamper Park in Longview.

It was wonderful to see so many community members, baseball fans and local history enthusiasts come together to celebrate an important chapter in Longview's past.

Special thanks to Jonathan Alford for bringing history to life by portraying a *Longview Cannibals* player during the day's ceremony.

Over the years, East Texas has produced its share of colorful hometown baseball team names. But none matched the bravado of the *Longview Cannibals*, who represented Longview on the diamond for 44 years.

The team got its unique name in June of 1895 when the team defeated the San Antonio Missionaries, 7-0, in a hastily scheduled game when the Texas League team missed its train connection at Longview after a series of games in Shreveport.

Longview newspaperman C.B. Cunningham reported that the Missionaries "were eaten up by the *Longview Cannibals* today." Longview's baseball fans liked the name so much that it stuck.

Many of the Cannibals went on to play with major league baseball teams through the years. Among them were Jack Johnston, Sam West, Grady White, Hick Munsell, Ray Flaskamper, Abe Bowman, Merv Conners, and Tex Jeanes.



Staff Members:

Jennifer White
Executive Director

Lynn Bryson
Volunteer Coordinator

Bridgette Hunt

Accounting

Kelly Green

Archives

Sandy Spears

Education Coordinator

Lana Higginbotham

Membership Coordinator

Board Members

2026-2027

Tamer Abouras

Kathy Adams

Jordan Alford

Jon Carter

Angela Choy

B. W. Crain IV

Kerri Esposito

Debbie Hancock

Kerry Higginbotham

Jonathan LaMaster

Dr. Meredith May

Steve McCoskey

Keith Pfeffer

Christian Pippins

Ryan Rockett

Brittney Smith

Mary Lou Tevebaugh

Nicole Walden

Marc Welch

Taylor Welch

For more than 13 years, **Lynn Bryson** has faithfully served the *Gregg County Historical Museum* as its *Volunteer Coordinator*. She is truly the heartbeat of the museum. Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment have shaped the museum into a place where history comes alive and every visitor is welcomed with warmth. Lynn also possesses a talent for designing and staging captivating exhibits and transforms historical artifacts into meaningful stories. From the moment visitors walk through the doors, they experience the inviting atmosphere she has helped create. Her presence is woven into every corner of the museum, making her an irreplaceable part of its family.

Lynn has an extraordinary gift for bringing people together and building lasting relationships with the volunteers who generously give their time and talents. She never sees them as simply volunteers but as family. Lynn takes the time to call and check on them because she genuinely cares. She celebrates their accomplishments, encourages them through life's challenges, and ensures that each person feels valued and appreciated. Her kindness and authentic concern inspire others to serve with joy, creating a volunteer program built on friendship and purpose. Lynn's influence extends far beyond volunteer coordination. She has an exceptional eye for detail and approaches every exhibit with creativity and care, knowing that even the smallest touches can leave the greatest impression.

A proud grandmother of four, she brings that same love, patience, and encouragement into her work each day. She has earned the admiration and respect of the museum staff, volunteers, and countless visitors whose lives she has touched. Lynn leads with grace, serves with humility, and gives without seeking recognition. Through her service, she has strengthened the *Gregg County Historical Museum* in countless ways. More importantly, she has helped create a place where history is treasured, people are valued, and everyone is welcomed like family.



Lynn has a gift for teaching others with patience and kindness. She takes the time to explain each task and never makes anyone feel rushed or unimportant. She encourages volunteers and staff to do their best while helping them learn with confidence. Lynn is often called the museum's "Energizer Bunny" because she never seems to slow down.

-Julie Weaver

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Gregg County Historical Museum Welcomes New Board Members



Ryan Rockett

Ryan Rockett has proudly served the Longview community for the past 16 years and currently serves as Deputy Chief of Police for the *Longview Police Department*. A graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and a minor in International Business Administration, Ryan has built his career on leadership, service, and a commitment to strengthening the community he calls home. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a collaborative leadership style, earning a reputation as a dedicated team player who values partnerships and works to bring people together to solve problems.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Ryan has a lifelong appreciation for history and the stories that shape a community's identity. His interest in preserving and celebrating Longview's heritage led him to participate in *Leadership Longview* through the *Longview Chamber of Commerce*, where he further developed his commitment to civic engagement and community leadership.

Jonathan LaMaster is the IT Director at *Mobberly Baptist Church* and has proudly called the Longview area home for the past 35 years. With more than 20 years of experience in information technology, he brings valuable technical knowledge and problem solving skills to every organization he serves. Jonathan has been actively involved in the community through the *Lobo Band Boosters*. He also serves on the Campus Development Committee at *Mobberly Baptist Church* and is a recent graduate of *Leadership Longview*.

Jonathan believes that serving others is one of the best ways to strengthen a community. He enjoys being part of something bigger than himself and values opportunities to make a lasting difference. His experience in technology and organizational planning allows him to offer practical solutions while working with others toward common goals. Jonathan looks forward to helping GCHM continue to grow and preserve the history of Gregg County.



Jonathan LaMaster



Tamer Abouras

Tamer Abouras is an attorney with *Sloan Law Firm* who has proudly called Gregg County home since August 2021. Since moving to the area, he has become actively involved in the community and has served on the *Longview Historic Preservation Commission* since June 2022. Tamer enjoys helping preserve the history of Longview and believes that protecting the city's past helps strengthen its future. He is known for being thoughtful in his work and for paying close attention to every detail.

Tamer also enjoys finding new ways to share the museum's story with the community. He has a strong interest in marketing and believes that increasing public awareness helps connect more people with local history. Whether serving on the *Historic Preservation Commission* or supporting the *Gregg County Historical Museum*, he is committed to working with others.

Kerry Higginbotham has dedicated his career to law enforcement and has proudly called Longview home for more than 20 years. Throughout his career, Kerry has built a reputation as a trusted leader who approaches every challenge with professionalism and determination. He enjoys working with others and believes the best solutions come from collaboration. His willingness to take on difficult projects and see them through has earned the respect of those who know and work with him.

Outside of his professional career, Kerry has a deep appreciation for the history of Longview and enjoys learning about the people, places, and events that have shaped the city. He has served on nonprofit boards and is always willing to lend his time and talents to projects that strengthen the community. Kerry also has experience in photography and construction, and he enjoys working on passion projects that allow him to preserve history while using his creativity and craftsmanship.



Kerry Higginbotham



Keith Pfeffer

Keith Pfeffer is a Certified Public Accountant with *Heard, McElroy, & Vestal, LLC* and has called Gregg County home for the past 19 years. He has a strong commitment to serving the community and has shared his time with several local organizations. Keith served on the *St. Mary's Catholic School Advisory Council* and has held a variety of leadership roles with the *East Texas Chapter of Certified Public Accountants*. He also served as the chapter's president and enjoyed helping guide the organization.

Keith is interested in serving on the museum board because he wants to give back to the community that has given so much to him. He believes the museum plays an important role in preserving local history while supporting the continued growth of Gregg County. His experience as a CPA provides valuable financial knowledge and strong organizational skills. Keith looks forward to working with the board to help the museum continue to grow and serve future generations.

Meet your incoming President



Dear Friends of the Museum,

I am truly honored to serve as the incoming president of the Gregg County Historical Museum. It is a privilege to help guide an organization that has long been dedicated to preserving and celebrating our community's rich history. Thank you for your continued support—it is truly appreciated. We have many exciting exhibits and events planned for the coming year, and I look forward to seeing you at the museum!

On September 26, 2026, join us for *Landmarks of Longview*, a tour highlighting some of our community's historic and architectural treasures. The tour features beautiful homes that have been graciously opened to the public, allowing visitors to not only admire their architectural beauty but also learn the stories and history behind these remarkable homes. Then, on October 17, 2026, experience *Historic Haunts*, where storytelling and guided tours come together to create a memorable and delightfully haunting evening. December begins with *Fashion & Firs* on December 1, 2026. This festive evening is sure to put everyone in the Christmas spirit as attendees enjoy beautifully decorated Christmas trees and wreaths. It is also a wonderful opportunity to find unique holiday gifts while celebrating the season with family and friends. On December 5, 2026, join us for a family-friendly celebration featuring our beloved model train exhibit, along with fun activities for children of all ages.

Looking ahead, we are especially excited about our upcoming exhibits. During February and March, our *Voices of the South* exhibit will celebrate the voices and lasting contributions of influential figures in jazz, literature, blues, and poetry. From May through August, our *Boombox Generation* exhibit will celebrate the music, culture, and lasting influence of two unforgettable decades that continue to shape our communities today.

None of this would be possible without your generous support and dedication. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and hardworking museum staff—we truly could not do it without you. We are also deeply grateful to the *City of Longview* and Gregg County for their continued partnership and support. Your investment in preserving our shared history allows us not only to learn from the past but also to inspire future generations.

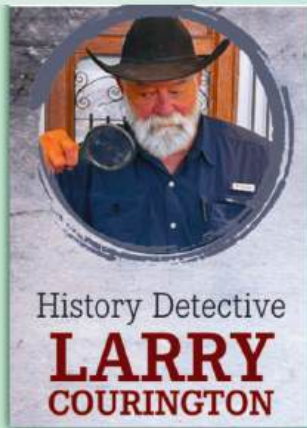
I look forward to a wonderful year ahead and hope to see you at the museum as we continue celebrating the history that connects us all. Thank you again for your continued support.

Warm Regards,

Christian Pippins

President, Gregg County Historical Museum

Charlie Neal



Charlie Neal, born in Longview, Texas, rose from East Texas sandlots to become one of Major League Baseball's most respected infielders during the 1950s and 1960s. Known for his quick hands, strong defense, and clutch hitting, Neal made his Major League debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1956. He helped the team capture the 1959 World Series championship after the franchise moved to Los Angeles. Playing primarily at second base, he became a fan favorite for his consistency and athleticism, earning recognition as one of the key African American players who helped shape baseball in the years following Jackie Robinson's breakthrough.

Beyond his accomplishments on the field, Charlie Neal's story reflects determination, talent, and pride in his East Texas roots. He played during a transformative era in American sports, helping open doors for future generations of athletes while representing Longview on the national stage. His career included multiple World Series appearances and memorable performances against some of baseball's greatest teams and players. Today, Neal is remembered not only as an outstanding ballplayer, but also as a hometown pioneer whose legacy continues to inspire young athletes across Texas.

Adding to his legacy and personal connection to the game, the bat on display in the GCHM sports exhibit was specially designed by Charlie Neal himself. His knowledge of baseball and his passion for the sport that made him a hometown legend.



by Lana Lynne Higginbotham



***Alligator Creek* by Lottie Gentry** released in 2015. During her promotion of her book, I met Lottie at a local writer's meeting. Her presentation detailed her writing journey and the inspiration of her family's legacy. As I share her love of Civil War history and heritage, she had my full attention. When asked, she surprised the group by declaring she had no plans to write another book; writing this one accomplished the family story she wanted to tell. The time and energy required to write another would take away from adding chapters of new memories to her own life. Her family mattered the most. Of course, I bought the book, and she signed it that night.

I came home and opened the cover of *Alligator Creek* and had to force myself to turn off the light at bedtime. In balancing life and work, it took me about a week to finish reading it. A detailed backdrop of well-researched history surrounded the characters, bringing the past to life. Inspired by the author's great-great-grandparents, the characters of Alexander and Sarah Browning are unforgettable. The challenges Sarah and their children face on the home front in Florida and the trauma and grit of the war for Alex are unflinching. My heart ached for each, especially for Sarah during the post-war journey to East Texas.

This novel isn't a typical love story with a backdrop of war. It explores the harsh realities and does not have the expected ending. However, it does have a satisfying one—forgiveness. Don't miss it.



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THANK YOU!

The Gregg County Historical Museum extends its sincere appreciation to the East Texas Professional Credit Union "Kindness Crew" for their thoughtful visit and generous appreciation bags filled with goodies and snacks.

ETPCU launched its *History Series* on July 1, 2026. GCHM is honored to be recognized for its role in preserving the stories, artifacts, and heritage that make East Texas so special.

GCHM is grateful for the partnership with East Texas Professional Credit Union and wish you great success.



KINDNESS CREW

GCHM FUTURE EXHIBITS



The South has long been a place where music and words have told the stories of its people. From the soulful sounds of jazz and blues to the powerful voices of poets and authors, Southern artists have captured the joys, struggles, traditions, and dreams of generations. Their creativity has influenced American culture and inspired audiences around the world. This exhibit celebrates the musicians, writers, and poets whose talents gave the South its distinctive voice. Through their art, they preserved history, expressed emotion, and created a lasting legacy that continues to shape our understanding of the region today in 2027.

The 1980s and 1990s were decades of remarkable creativity, change, and cultural transformation. Political shifts, social movements, music, movies, television, fashion, sports, and emerging technology all helped shape a generation and redefine everyday life. The boombox became an enduring symbol of the era, bringing music into neighborhoods, parks, and homes while connecting people through shared experiences and unforgettable songs. This exhibit explores the defining moments, cultural trends, and historic events that left a lasting impact on these two decades. It also examines how their influence continues to shape entertainment, technology, politics, and popular culture today.





THE DALTON ROBBERY



Step into the story of one of Longview's most unforgettable moments at the *Gregg County Historical Museum*. Our **NEW Dalton Days Exhibit** brings the dramatic events of the 1894 Dalton Gang bank robbery to life through historic photographs, artifacts, and fascinating stories. Learn about the bravery of Longview's citizens and law enforcement who helped stop the outlaws and preserved a remarkable piece of our community's history.

Since 1994, the *Gregg County Historical Museum* has proudly hosted **Dalton Days**, an annual celebration of Longview's heritage. Each year, families gather for a day filled with excitement featuring the famous bank robbery reenactments, Wild West entertainment, blacksmith demonstrations, children's activities, artisans, food vendors, and hands-on fun for all ages. **Dalton Days** has become one of Longview's favorite traditions and continues to celebrate the history that shaped our community.

Come visit the museum and experience the **NEW Dalton Days Exhibit**. Then make plans to join us this spring as history comes alive during **Dalton Days, April 3, 2027**. There is always something new to discover at the *Gregg County Historical Museum*.

The *Revitalize and Rediscover Campaign* is bringing exciting new life to the *Gregg County Historical Museum*. Visitors will notice many changes throughout the museum as we prepare to unveil new exhibits and enhanced gallery spaces this fall. Every update is designed to create a more engaging experience while preserving the rich history of Gregg County.

One of the most anticipated additions is "**The Price of Liberty**," a powerful new military exhibit that honors the courage, sacrifice, and service of the men and women who have defended our nation. Through artifacts, photographs, uniforms, and personal stories, visitors will gain a deeper appreciation for the cost of freedom and the lasting impact of military service.

As the museum continues to grow, the *Revitalize and Rediscover Campaign* reflects our commitment to preserving the past while creating new experiences for future generations.



Campaign Donations
PO Box 3342
Longview, Tx 75606
903-753-5840



LOST LANDMARKS

THE DOWNTOWN THEATERS OF GREGG COUNTY

by Marc Welch

In the first half of the 20th century, movie theaters were an important part of the social fabric of Gregg County. With the oil boom of the 1930s, theaters opened to entertain the growing population. Movies were the best resource for seeing news of the world and providing an escape from a nation during the depression.

Gladewater had the *Gregg Theater* built in 1935, with seating for over 400 that featured major Hollywood productions. Across the railroad tracks, the *Cozy*, built in 1935, featured Westerns and included a balcony for African American patrons during the era of segregation. Kilgore was home to the *Texan Theater*, opened in 1931, and the *Crim Theater* which opened in June of 1939. *The Crim* was designed to be the most modern theater in Texas, seating 1,000 people and featuring air conditioning and hosting world premiere movies. Even Greggton had the *Ritz Theater* opening in 1932, on Hwy 80, although it was destroyed by a fire in 1942.

Longview was home to six theaters, *Rembert*, *Rita*, *Liberty*, *Strand*, *Aladdin*, and *Arlyne*, none of which survive today. Frank Rembert built the first theater on Cotton Street in 1915. It hosted traveling plays and variety shows, later featuring silent movies. It was bought by Tracy Flanagan who introduced "talking movies" in the late 1920's. Today the site is part of the First Baptist Church complex. *The Aladdin Theater*, located on Fredonia Street just south of the train station, opened in 1931 and was a popular movie house with Longview's growing boom town population. *The Aladdin* burned in December 1937, damaging several businesses on the block. The *Rita* opened in 1934, on East Tyler Street. It seated 650 and included a balcony for the African American patrons. It burned, then reopened in 1948, but closed in 1954, and was demolished in the 1960s.

The last of the downtown theaters opened in May of 1939, built by Tracy Flanagan and named for his wife, Arlyne. The theater's exterior featured a circular arc covering the entire front of the building with a large vertical sign spelling out "ARLYNE." The inside was as modern as the exterior with air conditioning, a large screen, and interior walls decorated with art deco designs and seating for 1,000. The upper floor featured a smoking lounge and restrooms, but no balcony seating. *The Arlyne* closed its doors in 1975, and was demolished in 1976, falling victim to newer, larger theaters outside of downtown.

While these historical theaters are lost landmarks, one part of theater history found new purpose in your *Gregg County Historical Museum*. Today the *Arlyne's* original ticket receptacle is on display in our exhibit on Gregg County celebrities.



Membership Benefits at Gregg County Historical Museum



Interested in becoming a member? Memberships provide a significant portion of the funds that the museum uses throughout the year to provide educational events and resources for the community and all visitors!



Membership Benefits

	\$35 Senior	\$35 Educator	\$50 Individual	\$100 Family	\$250 Historian	\$500 Pioneer	\$1000 Industrialist	\$5000 Lifetime
FREE Unlimited Admission	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A subscription to Musings Magazine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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Reciprocal Admission to over 340 Time Traveler Museums				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10% OFF unique Giftshop items	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complementary Guest Passes					✓	✓	✓	✓
2 FREE tickets to Dalton Days VIP Room						✓	✓	✓
2 FREE tickets to Landmarks of Longview							✓	✓
2 FREE tickets to the Kentucky Derby Party								✓
2 FREE tickets to the Preservation Reception								✓
Complimentary use of the Education Center for one private function								✓
Yearly commemorative ornament								✓
Name included on the Wall of Lifetime Members								✓



Sign up to become a member by scanning this QR code with your phone or by visiting:
www.gregghistorical.org/become-a-member

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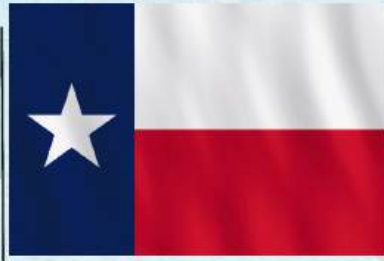
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LIFT OFF LONGVIEW!

THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM BALLOON SCULPTURE PROJECT

Spotlight your business with a vibrant, full-color GCHM balloon sculpture. Choose your size, location, and artist.

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONGVIEW

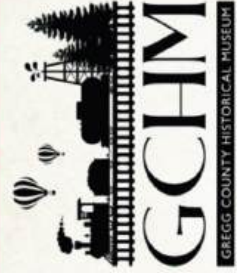


Our featured hot air balloon was created as a lasting symbol of community partnership and service. The blue panels represent the signature color of the Junior League of Longview, while the silver panels were selected to complement the organization's logo. Rather than being painted, the old and current Junior League logos displayed on the silver panels are high quality vinyl decals produced by Jason Jameson of Sign Pro. Simple in design yet rich in meaning, the balloon celebrates the Junior League of Longview's long history of volunteer service and its continued commitment to improving the quality of life in our community. It stands as a colorful reminder that when people work together, they can lift a community to new heights.

LIFT OFF LONGVIEW!

2026

THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM BALLOON SCULPTURE MAP



1. JOHNSON & PACE
1201 W LOOP 281
SOUTHWEST CORNER
2. LONGVIEW MALL
3500 MCCANN RD
NORTHWEST CORNER
3. HENRY & PETERS CPA
2101 JUDSON RD
NORTHWEST CORNER
4. CASA FLORA
314 MAGNOLIA LN
SOUTHWEST CORNER
5. PRISTINE PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT
107 MAGNOLIA LN
NORTHWEST CORNER
6. LONGVIEW EYE
ASSOCIATES
1821 JUDSON RD
SOUTHWEST CORNER
7. EASTMAN CREDIT UNION
PINE TREE
2002 W LOOP 281
NORTHWEST CORNER
8. PINE TREE HIGH
SCHOOL LIBRARY
900 NORTHWEST DR
SOUTHWEST CORNER
9. LONGVIEW ANIMAL CARE
& ADOPTION CENTER
303 H.G. MOSLEY PKWY
NORTHWEST CORNER
10. MAUDE COBB
CONVENTION CENTER
100 GRAND BLVD
SOUTHWEST CORNER
11. JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF LONGVIEW
1109 FOURTH ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
12. LONGVIEW PUBLIC
LIBRARY
222 W COTTON ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
13. BEER WELLS SERVICES
N CENTER ST & TYLER ST
EAGLE CAPITAL
N FREDONIA ST & TYLER ST
14. NEWS-JOURNAL
320 E METHWIN ST
15. WILDT WIRING
N CENTER ST & E METHWIN ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
16. SWEP CO
N CENTER ST & E METHWIN ST
NORTHWEST CORNER
17. SUGAR MAGNOLIA
PROPERTIES
N FREDONIA & E METHWIN ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
18. TEXAS ONCOLOGY
N FREDONIA & E METHWIN ST
NORTHWEST CORNER
19. GREGG COUNTY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
N FREDONIA & E METHWIN ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
20. AIR CYBERNETICS
N FREDONIA & E METHWIN ST
NORTHWEST CORNER
21. VERABANK
N GREEN ST & E METHWIN ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
22. 100 ACRES OF HERITAGE
N GREEN ST & E METHWIN ST
NORTHWEST CORNER
23. COMMUNITY
HEALTHCARE
N GREEN ST & W WHALEY ST
SOUTHWEST CORNER
24. TEXAS BANK AND
TRUST
N GREEN ST & W WHALEY ST
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