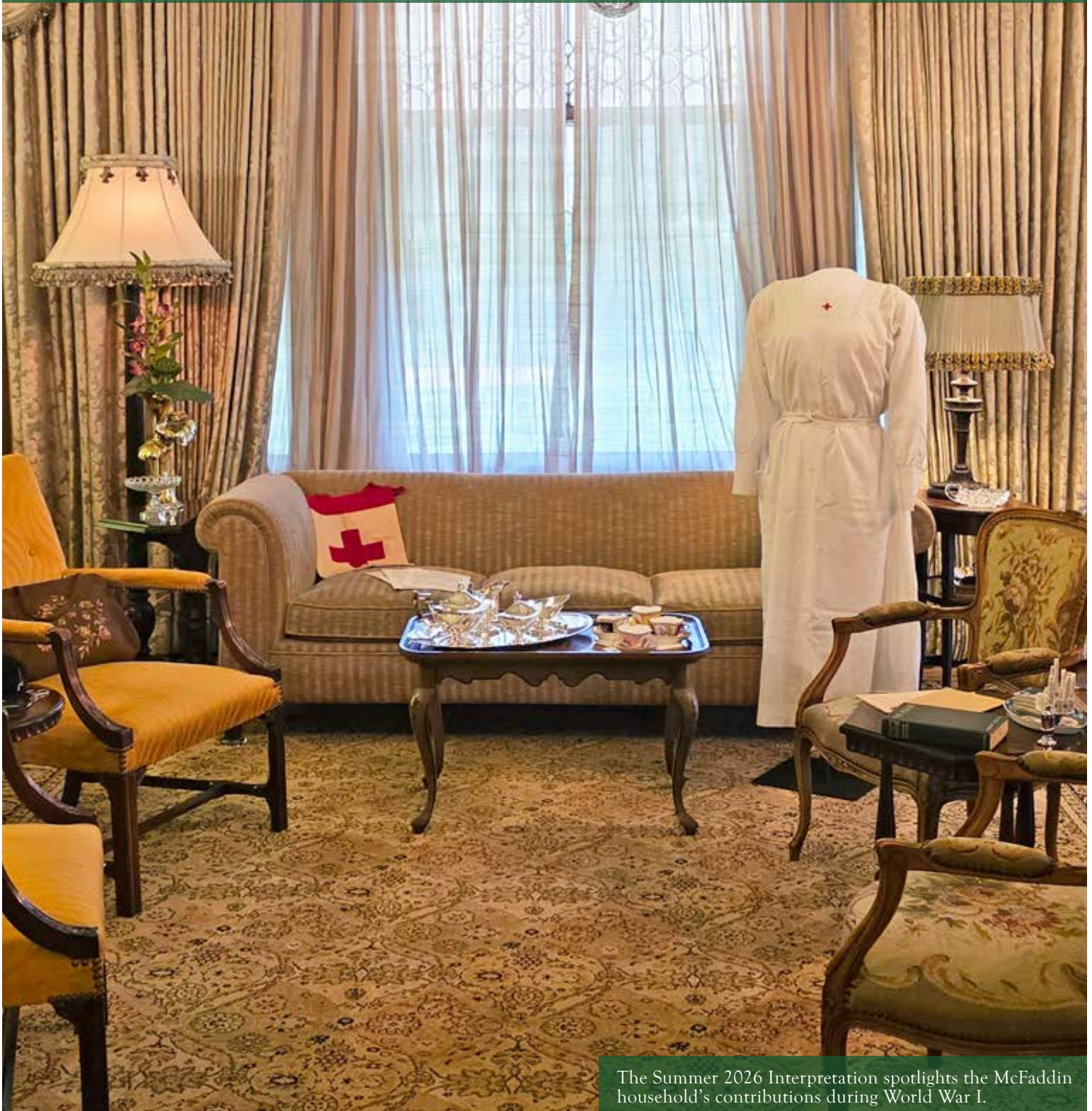




Fall 2026
Vol. 42/ No. 4

McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS



The Summer 2026 Interpretation spotlights the McFaddin household's contributions during World War I.



Who We Are

Completed in 1906, the McFaddin-Ward House is a striking Beaux-Arts Colonial Revival-style mansion and historic landmark in Beaumont, Texas.

Fully restored and beautifully furnished with original pieces, the house offers a vivid glimpse into the lives of the prominent McFaddin family—who called it home for 75 years—and their enduring contributions to the economic, social, and cultural history of Beaumont and the Texas Gulf Coast.

The Museum offers admission-free tours of the Historic Home, Carriage House, and Gardens, as well as engaging educational programming and year-round events.

HOURS & TOURS

Museum Hours

Tues. – Sat. | 9 AM – 2:30 PM

Sun. | 12 PM – 2:30 PM

**Last tour time is 2 PM*

Tour Times

McFaddin-Ward House Tour

Tues. – Sat. | 10 AM & 1 PM

Sun. | 1 PM only

**Open to ages 8+*

Carriage House & Garden Tour

Tues. – Sat. | 9 AM & 12 PM

Sun. | 12 PM only

**Open to all ages*



Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum has long been a place where people can experience history in a uniquely personal way. The Historic Home and Collection provide a remarkable connection to the McFaddin family and the changing world around them, but our work extends well beyond buildings and artifacts. Through public programs, educational outreach, and special events, we are able to share a broader range of stories and encourage a greater understanding of the history and culture of Beaumont and Southeast Texas.

As we look to the future, we continue to consider how we can build upon the Museum's strong foundation. This includes finding new ways to share the McFaddin family story, exploring additional themes and topics through our interpretation, and creating experiences that encourage visitors to discover more about the people, places, and events that shaped our region. At the same time, we remain committed to preserving the authenticity and historic character that make the McFaddin-Ward House such a remarkable place.

Central to this work is providing opportunities for people to learn, explore, and engage with the past in ways that are both informative and enjoyable. Our tours, lectures, and workshops each offer something different, but together they allow us to reach people of all ages and interests and strengthen the Museum's role within the community.

There is no single measure of success for a museum. It can be found in the visitor who discovers something unexpected, a student whose curiosity is sparked by an encounter with history, or the person who returns after many years. Each represents an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the past and reinforce the importance of preserving the places, objects, and stories that help tell the history of our community.

As we continue this work, our goal remains clear: to preserve what makes the McFaddin-Ward House exceptional while continuing to find meaningful ways to share its history. By remaining faithful to the historic character of the site while building upon our interpretation and outreach, we can ensure that the Museum remains a place of discovery and learning for generations to come.



We are grateful for your continued interest and support and look forward to our shared future.

Jeffrey Richardson, Executive Director

AMERICA 250: BEAUMONT AND THE McFADDINS

By Judy Linsley, Research Assistant



W.P.H. and Ida McFaddin, ca. 1890s. Museum Collection

When the United States was born 250 years ago, neither Beaumont nor the McFaddin family were in Texas; but they weren't far behind. Just over 200 years ago, in 1823, James and Elizabeth Mackey McFaddin came to Mexican Texas, permanently settling in the future Jefferson County in 1833. Beaumont was founded two years later.

Both family and town chose the spot where the Neches River intersected an ancient coastal trail (called Atascosito or Opelousas Trail, later the Liberty Road), traveled for centuries by Indigenous people, Spanish explorers, and French trappers.

Early Jefferson County records reveal that James and Elizabeth possessed strong personalities: a fine for James for interrupting a County

Court meeting and an agreement to divide their property if Elizabeth "legally demanded" a divorce. In 1840 Elizabeth—alone—contracted to have a home built.

Their son, William, located his land adjacent to his father's tract. During the years of the Republic of Texas, U.S. statehood, Civil War, and statehood again, the little river town of Beaumont steadily grew, while William and his wife Rachel Williams McFaddin increased their land and cattle holdings.

Their son, William Perry Herring (W.P.H.), born 1856, joined his father in business as a teenager, and the two began amassing a cattle and land empire.

In the 1870s, Beaumont became a lumber boom town. It was incorporated in 1881, and William McFaddin,

though known as a hard-nosed businessman, nevertheless donated land to the city for a cemetery.

Three years after his first wife, Emma Janes, died in 1891, W.P.H. married Ida Caldwell, from Huntington, West Virginia. Like James and Elizabeth McFaddin, they were also strong-minded individuals, though their efforts were focused differently.

The 20th century brought the 1901 Spindletop oil boom to Beaumont, and the town became a city almost overnight. The McFaddin family came into economic and social prominence, Ida through private philanthropy and W.P.H. through business interests.

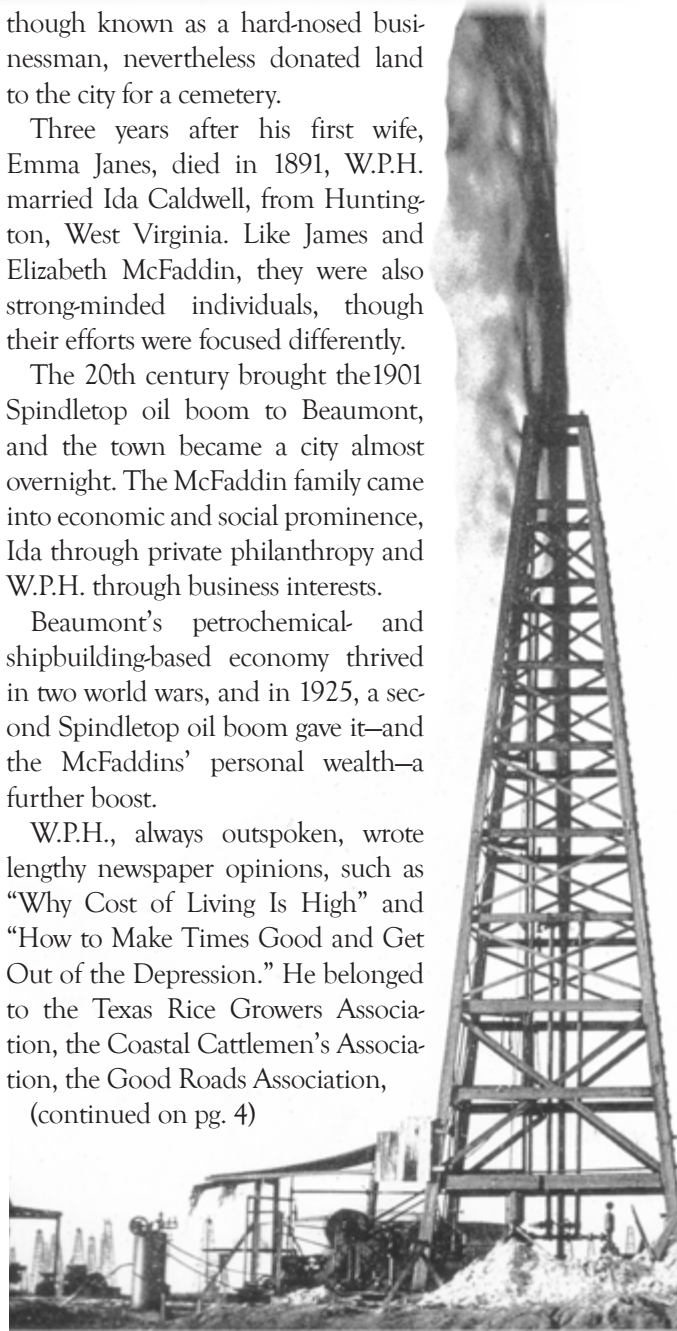
Beaumont's petrochemical- and shipbuilding-based economy thrived in two world wars, and in 1925, a second Spindletop oil boom gave it—and the McFaddins' personal wealth—a further boost.

W.P.H., always outspoken, wrote lengthy newspaper opinions, such as "Why Cost of Living Is High" and "How to Make Times Good and Get Out of the Depression." He belonged to the Texas Rice Growers Association, the Coastal Cattlemen's Association, the Good Roads Association,

(continued on pg. 4)



The William McFaddin homestead, built ca. 1856, photographed in the 1880s. It burned in 1905 and was replaced by the current McFaddin-Ward House. Museum Collection



AMERICA 250

(continued from page 2)

and was a director of the First National Bank of Beaumont. During the Great Depression, when local entities focused on assistance with food and housing, W.P.H. offered vacant town lots that he owned to African Americans for garden plots.

Ida instructed local Red Cross workers in bandage-making during World War I (highlighted in our 2026 Summer Interpretation), and she moved up to direct all of Beaumont's Red Cross volunteer services during World War II. In 1925, the Beaumont Children's Home, under her presidency, raised funds to build a new facility. Her donations to charitable, civic, cultural, and religious organizations were too numerous to count.

Ida and W.P.H. passed on a legacy of community involvement to their children. Perry Jr. worked with the Coastal Cattlemen's Association to furnish beef for a Depression-era canning plant for those in need. Caldwell served as an Air Raid Warden for Beaumont during World War II, was active in St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and helped organize the first Neches River Festival in 1949. Mamie McFaddin Ward, who often assisted her mother in charitable work, became one of Beaumont's most generous philanthropists, supporting educational, medical, religious, and other charitable endeavors. And, of course, she had the foresight to leave her home as a historic house museum.

Over nearly 200 years, the McFaddins have grown with Beaumont, and Beaumont has grown with the McFaddins. Their stories are inextricably connected.

Learn more local history at our November Lecture!



**America 250:
A Beaumont History
By Judith Walker
Linsley
Thursday, Nov. 12
6:30 PM**

In commemoration of America's 250th anniversary, Judith Walker Linsley, a sixth-generation Southeast Texan and local historian, will explore the fascinating story of Beaumont, beginning with the Indigenous Ishak people and traveling through the Texas Revolution, the 1901 Spindletop oil boom, and technological and industrial expansions leading up to the modern day.

More Than a Message

By Nacole Rhodes, Summer Curatorial Intern



As humans, we create. We create art, objects, social constructs, languages—things tangible and intangible. We create culture. Postcards, once a pillar of our ability to communicate remotely, are valuable as correspondence, collectibles, and cultural property. They are folk documents that have our minds, hearts, and souls written onto them.

The McFaddin-Ward's multi-recipient postcard collection spans over 60 years and reaches destinations as far as Russia and Uruguay.

More Than a Message presents the collection as a testament to human culture, transports viewers to the 20th century through visual and written histories, and champions the use of postcards as scholarly resources.



This Valentine's postcard was sent to Mamie McFaddin by her mother, Ida. It was postmarked Watkins, New York on February 11, 1909.

The postcards featured in the exhibition document changing customs and social etiquette, from the tradition of exchanging holiday greetings to the creative use of coded language and cross-writing to fit more words into a limited space.

The handwritten messages also reveal stories of love, family, and friendship.



This humorous postcard was sent to Mamie McFaddin from Texarkana, Arkansas, on May 11, 1912.



Exhibition
on view
in the
Visitor Center

‘Other Views’ MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IN BEAUMONT

By Arlene Christiansen, Assistant Director

The first professional baseball team to represent Beaumont was the Beaumont Oil Gushers, who played from 1903 to 1905. Later renamed the Beaumont Millionaires of the South Texas League, the team became known as the Beaumont Oilers from 1912 to 1917 and again in 1919.

In 1920, the Beaumont Exporters began play as part of the Texas League, opening what would become one of the longest chapters in Beaumont's baseball history. The Exporters played at Magnolia Ballpark before moving to the newly constructed Stuart Stadium in 1930. Through 1946, the team was affiliated with the Detroit Tigers and won Texas League championships in 1932 and 1938.

The Texas League suspended play during World War II. When baseball returned in 1946, the New York Yankees became Beaumont's parent club. In 1950, the team was renamed the Beaumont Roughnecks and finished first in the league but did not win the championship. The Exporters name was restored in 1953, but there were no more titles. The team moved to Austin in 1956.

More than a quarter century later, minor league baseball returned to Beaumont with the Beaumont Golden Gators in 1983. Playing at Vincent-Beck Stadium at Lamar University, the Gators won a championship in their inaugural season. The economic downturn that followed the collapse of oil prices in 1986 contributed to the team's sale and relocation to Wichita, Kansas.

Vincent-Beck Stadium was also home to the Beaumont Bullfrogs, a team that lasted only the 1994 season.

Now baseball has returned to Beaumont once again. The Beaumont Oil Barons, an independent professional team, began play in May 2026 as part of the Mid-America League. Their name pays tribute both to the 1901 Spindletop oil boom and to the oil industry that remains an important part of Beaumont today. Fittingly, they play at Vincent-Beck Stadium.

Beaumonters love their sports, so the Oil Barons should find a welcoming audience. It will be interesting to see where they fit into a baseball story that began more than 120 years ago.

Play ball!



Learn more Texas sports history at
our October Lecture!



The Texas Sports Revolution: How the Lone Star State Changed the Culture of American Athletics
By Frank A. Guridy
Thursday, Oct. 15 | 6:30 PM

Award-winning historian and author Frank A. Guridy will explore how the United States became a sports-crazed nation during the 1960s and 70s, emphasizing the decisive role Texas-based athletes and sports entrepreneurs played in the country's dramatic transformation.

FALL 2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

SEP

9/22

10-11:30 AM
ADULT CRAFT
WORKSHOP:
MOSAIC ART

NOV

11/8

12-2 PM
HOLIDAY
PHOTO SHOOT

OCT

10/8

6:30 PM
- MUSIC -
CURSE & THE CURE

11/10

10-11:30 AM
HOMESCHOOL
WORKSHOP:
*THANKSGIVING
TRADITIONS*

10/13

10-11:30 AM
HOMESCHOOL
WORKSHOP:
*REMEMBERING
THE RADIO*

11/12

6:30 PM
- LECTURE -
*AMERCIA 250: A
BEAUMONT HISTORY*
BY JUDITH
WALKER LINSLEY

10/15

6:30 PM
- LECTURE -
*TEXAS SPORTS
REVOLUTION*
BY FRANK A. GURIDY

11/17

10-11:30 AM
ADULT CRAFT
WORKSHOP:
*WONDERFUL
WAX WORKS*

10/20

10-11:30 AM
ADULT CRAFT
WORKSHOP:
*FALLING FOR
FLOWER
ARRANGEMENT*

11/19

6:30 PM
- MUSIC -
*THE GOLDEN
TRIANGLE
BIG BAND*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DEC
5&6

MCFADDIN-WARD
HOLIDAY OPEN
HOUSE WEEKEND
SAT & SUN
5-7 PM



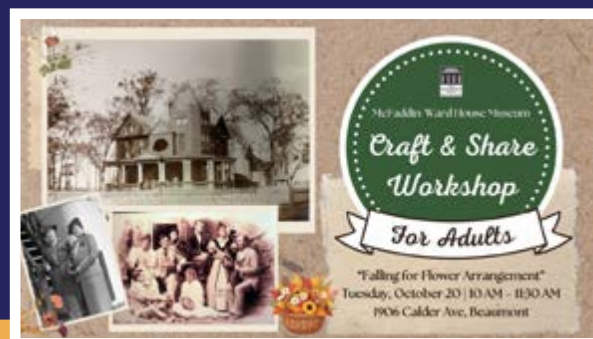
CRAFT & SHARE WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

**NOW OPEN TO AGES 21+
FREE TO ATTEND**

Registration not required, but seating is limited.



We will explore the origins and uses of mosaic art, experience a beautiful example within the McFaddin-Ward House Museum, and make a piece to take home.



A local professional florist will give a tutorial on flower arrangement.



Participants will learn to make air fresheners and soap.

RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

June 2026 Ranching Roundup Summer Camp

Thirty-nine campers aged eight to 12 took part in the three-day educational camp, exploring history and learning skills, such as butter churning, leatherworking, and farm-to-table cooking, that were necessary to run the McFaddin ranch and family home during the early 1900s.

Activities included a fishing demonstration by Village Creek State Park, making homemade ice cream, cooking on the open range with a visit from an authentic chuckwagon, barbecuing with 1701 Barbecue, and using proper hygiene with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, among others.



MUSIC AT THE McFADDINS' FALL CONCERT SERIES



Music at the McFaddins' — featuring — *Curse and the Cure* Thursday, Oct. 8 | 6:30 PM

Curse and the Cure—husband and wife acoustic duo Jason and Norma Touchette—will showcase their incredible range, amazing harmonies, and dynamic vocals across a wide variety of genres and familiar hits ranging from Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles to 90s country and TLC.

Music at the McFaddins' — featuring — *The Golden Triangle Big Band*

Thursday, Nov. 19 | 6:30 PM

The Golden Triangle Big Band is an 18-piece jazz orchestra comprised of some of the most talented musicians in Southeast Texas. The band is dedicated to preserving the tradition of big band music and bringing it to life for audiences of all ages.



SCAN FOR
FULL CALENDAR &
EVENT DETAILS

McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS



Vol. 42, No. 4
Fall 2026

(409) 832-1906: Office
(409) 832-2134: Visitor Center
www.mcfaddin-ward.org

The
McFADDIN-WARD
HOUSE
725 North Third Street
BEAUMONT, TEXAS
77701-1629
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
BEAUMONT, TX
PERMIT NO. 271

WE ARE SEEKING NEW DOCENTS

MAKE HISTORY

— COME ALIVE —

McFaddin-Ward House Museum docents are trained volunteers who share the history and architecture of the Historic Home with visitors from around the world.

There is a minimum six-month commitment (includes training time). Our fun and informative program includes training materials, hands-on tour experience, and mentor guidance and support.



For more details, visit mcfaddin-ward.org/about/get-involved
or scan the QR code below.

Follow the McFaddin-Ward House Museum on social media
for behind-the-scenes glimpses of museum life & historical happenings.



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Scan the QR code to apply to
become a docent volunteer:

