



Main Street Matters

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Spotlight on Nacogdoches

Population 32,000

Nacogdoches to ring in holidays with festival of local history and culture



Historic downtown Nacogdoches will be transformed into a winter wonderland for the upcoming 2008 Nine Flags Festival with more than 3 million holiday lights, a sparkling fireworks display and the largest lighted Christmas parade in East Texas.



Sparkling fireworks display during the festival.

The 12th annual celebration of Texas history and culture will be held Nov. 21 through Dec. 13 in Nacogdoches, located about 150 miles north of Houston via U.S. 59.

For more than a decade, the Nine Flags Festival has paid homage to the rich and spirited history of the oldest town in Texas. That history includes three attempts to establish a Republic of Texas. Thus, nine flags have flown over Nacogdoches as opposed to the six that have represented Texas. They are French, Spanish, Magee-Gutierrez, Dr. James Long, Mexican, Fredonia Rebellion, Lone Star, Confederate Stars and Bars and United States of America. This year's festival will pay special tribute to the Mexican flag.

Preparations are already well under way for this year's Mexican-themed festival. In addition to the usual favorites, we are planning several fun, new events

From touring an elegantly decorated historic home to watching the lighted Christmas parade wind its way through the brick streets of downtown to drinking wassail while shopping in our unique local shops and



Nine Flags Christmas parade in downtown Nacogdoches.



The festival pays special tribute to the Mexican flag for 2008.

galleries, the Nine Flags Festival offers something for everyone.

Downtown merchants will be cooked up their best wassail Saturday, Nov. 29, for Wassail Fest when they competed for bragging rights for the best warm holiday brew. Sponsored by the Downtown Merchants Association, shoppers were invited to enjoy the wassail as they meandered through the shops in search of antiques and one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. This year's event was themed

From Renaissance to Rock 'n Roll, and festival goers will be treated to costumed characters strolling and caroling the streets.

The Nine Flags Festival will also include the annual Christmas celebration at Millard's Crossing Historic Village on Friday, Dec. 5. Visitors to this charming reconstructed historic village experience East Texas life as it was in the 19th century.

First Friday Nights will also take the spotlight this year. Downtown stores will be open late till 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5 to give shoppers a few extra hours to knock off that Christmas list.

The popular lighted downtown Christmas parade is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, followed by the fireworks display. The day starts early with Pancakes with Santa and the Jingle Bell Run and will also offer arts and crafts and food vendors, live entertainment, competitions, children's activities and a fireworks show.

Other festival activities will include the 5-K Jingle Bell Run (and 3-K walk), set for Dec 6. The 5K run and 3K walk are annual favorites for many. With jingle bells tied to the runners' laces, it really helps get you in the holiday spirit. Cycle enthusiasts can also participate in the Tour de Nac, as they ride through the brick streets of downtown. The event



Enjoying the old-time carriage rides in downtown.

scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22 includes both a 7.8-mile and 53.3-mile route.

Other events include an annual Candle Walk Tour of Homes, SFA's Madrigal Singers, Old Time Fiddler Contest and "Let the Good Times Roll."

There is no better place to ring in the holiday season than downtown in the oldest town in Texas during the 12th annual Nine Flags Festival.

For more information about the festival, call the 1-888-OLDEST-TOWN or visit www.nineflagsfestival.com.

Thanks to Sarah O'Brien, manager of the Nacogdoches Main Street Program, for providing this article.

NEWS

Interested in hosting a Your Town workshop?

The National Endowment for the Arts will be funding four Your Town: The Citizen's Institute on Rural Design workshops and is seeking proposals from communities interested in hosting a workshop between now and November 2009. Your Town is an opportunity to bring design professionals to your community to help you tackle critical regional planning and design issues. Up to \$22,000 will be available to a nonprofit organization for each workshop.

The deadline to submit a proposal is **December 12, 2008**.

For more information, go to www.yourtowndesign.org.

Click [here](#) to view the 2007 Your Town Awards.



Congratulations to the Texas Downtown Association (TDA) President's Award Winners in Texas Main Street Cities

Honoring quality projects in Texas downtowns, the President's Awards were announced at the TDA/Main Street annual conference Nov. 11-14 in the partner cities of Temple/Belton/Salado. Award winners from fellow Texas Main Street cities were:

- **Best Commerical Interior**
Belle Rose Boutique, Bowie
- **Best Renovation/ Rehabilitation**
Baxter's on Main, Bastrop — Private Sector
- **Best Restoration**
Williamson County Courthouse, Georgetown
- **Best Marketing Program**
Main Street Brenham, Brenham
- **Best Promotional Event**
Bastrop's 175th Birthday Party, Bastrop
- Sheep Spectacular, San Angelo — Judges Recognition Award for Promotions
- **Best Downtown Business**
Must Be Heaven, Brenham
- **Best Downtown Partner**
Kilgore Historic Preservation Foundation, Kilgore
- **Downtowner of the Year**
Joey Seeber, Former Mayor, Tyler

For a complete list of winners, go to, www.texasdowntown.org.

EVENTS

Please remember if you want one of your Main Street events posted here, email jill.robinson@thc.state.tx.us at least three weeks ahead of the month in which you want the posting.

Following are a few of the many great holiday events in our Texas Main Street cities:

Nov. 20–Dec. 31, Kilgore

View more than 60 lighted oil derricks during “Christmas in the Oil Patch” occurring nightly Nov. 20–Dec. 31 in downtown Kilgore. Drive through the World’s Richest Acre park and marvel at the majesty of star-topped oil derricks that highlight Kilgore’s skyline.

Also enjoy the holiday decor and celebration of “Christmas in Boomtown” through Dec. 31 at the East Texas Oil Museum. For more information, go to www.holidaytrailoflights.com/kilg.html.

Nov. 28–Jan. 1, Bastrop

Enjoy the River of Lights display nightly at Fisherman’s Park and the river walk area in downtown Bastrop.

Nov. 29–Dec. 13, Gonzales

Join the many activities of Winterfest beginning Thanksgiving weekend including: the ‘Stars in the Village’ the Holiday Tour of Historic Homes; the Lighted Christmas Parade on Friday, Dec. 5; Courthouse Trade Days; the Trail of Lights on the downtown squares; lighting contest throughout the community; the historical program – Gonzales: The Beginning; the Annual Book Fair; and the Pilgrim Country Opry. For more information, go to www.gonzalestexas.com/calendar.asp?month=12&year=2008.

Dec. 4–6, San Marcos

There will be lights, lights and more lights at the 22nd annual Sights and Sounds of Christmas. Start your Christmas shopping early at the Texas marketplace. Visit Santa’s village, ride the carousel, view a live nativity scene and enjoy delicious holiday favorites. The entire family can get into the holiday spirit by joining in on all the fun-filled activities. Visit www.toursanmarcos.com or call 888.200.5620.

Dec. 5–7, San Angelo

Christmas at old Fort Concho features living history, shopping, entertainment, special displays and exhibits. All events will be at the Fort Concho national historic landmark. Email events@fortconcho.com for more info.

Dec. 5–7, 12–14, Paris

Spend your holidays in Paris with “Tis the Season” events which will include music, vintage scenes, carriage rides, miniature horse cart rides for the children, art walk, Garden Club tour of homes, carolers and hand bell choirs, Christmas village, tastes and smells of Christmas and more. Contact Bethany Golden at bethgolden@paristexas.gov or call 903.784.9293.

Dec. 6, Elgin

Festivities begin at 10 a.m. in Veterans’ Memorial Park where there will be artist displays, photos with Santa, kids’ activities and entertainment. Topping off the day’s festivities will be a lighted holiday parade at dusk down Main Street sponsored by the Elgin Volunteer Fire Department. There will be a live nativity in Veterans’ Park immediately following the parade. For more information, call 512.281.5724.

Dec. 6, Georgetown

Enjoy the 28th annual Christmas Stroll and parade in historic down-

town. There will be events all day with “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” being shown on a super-sized outdoor screen at 6:30 p.m. Call 512/868-8675 or see www.ivdesign.com/georgetown/holiday/holiday.pdf

Dec. 6–7 and 13–14, Waxahachie

The downtown Victorian Christmas festival, Bethlehem Revisited, Candlelight Homes Tour and Enchanted Pines Outdoor Ice Skating Rink will all be in full swing the first two weekends in December. Come experience the holidays in Waxahachie with Victorian vendors selling their wares, carriage rides, petting zoo and pony rides, photos with Santa and much more. Bethlehem Revisited and the Candlelight Home Tour are events not to be missed! Shopping galore and lots to keep you busy. See you in Waxahachie!

Dec. 13, Bastrop

Bastrop’s annual holiday event includes the Holiday Homes Tour, which provides a chance to visit five of our historic “beauties” in their holiday decorations (visit www.bastropholidayhomestour.com for information). The Second Saturday Market Days street fair will be in full swing beginning at 9 a.m., and at 6:30 p.m. the Lighted Holiday Parade begins with Santa’s arrival. The parade offers more than 100 entries to spectators (last year the parade drew 7,500 spectators), and at the end of the parade Santa visits the businesses open late that evening, making for a very merry crowd along Main Street. Visit www.bastropdba.org for more information on all of the events that day.

Dec. 13, Livingston

Hometown Christmas in historic downtown Livingston features arts and crafts vendors, Jingle Bell run,

lighted Christmas parade and Santa's annual visit. Call 936.327.1050.

GRANTS

Portal to Texas History Grants

Through funds provided by the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas, University of North Texas' (UNT) Portal to Texas History is offering digitization mini-grants to libraries, archives, museums, historical societies and other groups which hold at-risk local history materials. All of the materials will be scanned at the Digital Imaging Lab in the Willis Library on the UNT campus in Denton. Materials scanned for the grant will be hosted in the [Portal to Texas History](#). Digitization mini-grants will be given in the range of \$25–2,500.

This project promises immeasurable benefits to cultural heritage institutions by preserving at-risk historical materials. These items are in danger of being lost forever, but with the generous support of the Summerlee Foundation, UNT proposes a solution that will help prevent damage from continued handling, while making these valuable historical materials widely accessible to all Texans. The application deadline is **Dec. 15, 2008**. Scanning will begin in 2009.

Apply:

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/young/educators/Summerlee.shtml>

FAQs:

<http://texashistory.unt.edu/young/educators/SummerleeFAQ.shtml>

Texas Preservation Trust Fund Grants

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) awards grants for preservation projects from the Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF). Created

by the Texas Legislature in 1989, the TPTF is an interest-earning pool of public and private monies. The earned interest and designated gifts are distributed yearly as matching grants to qualified applicants for the acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation or for the planning and educational activities leading to the preservation of historic properties, archeological sites and associated collections of the State of Texas. Competitive grants are awarded on a one-to-one match basis and are paid as reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred during the project. Watch for applications to be available mid-January 2009.

Some of your fellow Main Street cities were funded in 2009 through this grant including:

Beeville: Architecture planning for the Rialto Theater, \$23,237.50

Nacogdoches: Roof replacement and historically appropriate repair of certain interior features at the Old Nacogdoches University Building, \$30,000

Rio Grande City: Mothballing plan for four historic buildings, \$10,600

San Angelo: Feasibility study for the preservation of San Angelo City Hall, \$24,978

For more information, go to www.thc.state.tx.us/grantsincent/gratptf.shtml.

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS

Webinar Wednesdays with Jon Schallert

Webinar Wednesdays give business owners a chance to receive consulting advice directly from Jon

Schallert, all at no cost! There will be three Webinar Wednesdays between now and Christmas. This is a great way to receive consulting assistance on a specific business issue, and hear the advice Schallert is giving other business owners across the country.

During each Webinar Wednesday, Schallert will be discussing serious business issues on increasing customer traffic, building sales during this challenging fourth quarter of the year, and how other businesses are dealing with this slowing economy.

Upcoming Webinar Wednesday dates are: Dec. 3, 10 and 17.

Each webinar will last approximately one hour and will begin at 10 a.m. Webinars are free, but you must register at:

http://www.destinationuniversity.com/webinar_wednesdays/.

NOMINATIONS

THC Preservation Awards

These awards recognize accomplishments and leadership in historic preservation and will be presented at the agency's 2009 Annual Historic Preservation Conference held in Lakeway, April 15–17.

The THC honors individuals and organizations who help to tell the real stories of Texas and are preserving the treasures of our state's rich history. The Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology honors an individual for outstanding lifetime accomplishments in archeological research and/or preservation, including both professional and avocational archeologists. Other awards include the Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award, the George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award and the John Ben

Shepherd County Historical Commission Leadership Award. Preservation award submissions are due by 5 p.m. on **Dec. 12**.

The THC is also accepting submissions for the prestigious T.R. Fehrenbach Book Award, which honors books based on original research that preserve, record and recount the pre-history or history of Texas. Books submitted for the award must have a 2008 copyright date and a minimum print run of 200. The award honors historian and THC Commissioner Emeritus T.R. Fehrenbach of San Antonio, one of the state's leading authorities on Texas history. The deadline for nominations for the T.R. Fehrenbach Book Award is **Dec. 31** at 5 p.m.

To obtain a complete listing of awards available and a nomination form for submissions visit www.thc.state.tx.us.

JOBS

2009 THC PRESERVATION FELLOWS PROGRAM

Diversity Internships in Historic Preservation

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) seeks to increase the diversity of professionals working in historic preservation, acknowledge the variety of cultures that enrich Texas' heritage and engage a wider range of organizations and communities in supporting efforts to protect and preserve the history of our state.

The THC's Preservation Fellows Program was created to build interest in and awareness of historic preservation, specifically among students from underrepresented ethnic groups. This initiative targets undergraduate and graduate students to encourage their interest in pursuing fields of study in history, preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, ar-

cheology, downtown revitalization and heritage tourism. Preservation Fellows receive a \$5,000 stipend for eight weeks of employment (40-hour week) under the supervision of the THC, either at its headquarters in Austin or "in the field" with an associated preservation organization such as a Main Street program, a heritage tourism program, a history museum or a historical association. For more information, call 512.936.2241.

Calendar of Events

2009

■ January 12–14, Georgetown

Texas Main Street training for new managers. (Jan. 12-13 will include board training for new city board members any other board members wishing to attend.) Hotel info: Comfort Suites in Georgetown, 512.863.7544, rates: \$89 single, \$99 double, Reference: Texas Main Street. **Room block expires Jan. 3.**

■ February 10–13, Bastrop

Completion of Texas Main Street training for new managers. Texas Main Street Annual Meeting will begin on Feb. 11. There will be a variety of hotel/B&B options which will be sent out on the list serve.

■ February 11–13, Bastrop

Texas Main Street Program Annual Meeting

■ April 15–17, Lakeway

THC's 2009 Annual Historic Preservation Conference

Web Sites of Interest

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: www.achp.gov
African American Heritage Preservation Foundation: www.aahpfdn.org
(The) Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation: www.ahlp.org
American Institute of Architects: www.aia.org
American Planning Association: www.planning.org
American Society of Landscape Architects: www.asla.org
(The) Cultural Landscape Foundation: www.tclf.org
Handbook of Texas Online: www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/
Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies: www.icls.harvard.edu
Keep Texas Beautiful: www.ktb.org
League of Historic American Theaters: www.lhat.org
National Main Street Center: www.mainstreet.org
National Park Service: www.nps.gov
National Trust for Historic Preservation: www.nthp.org
Office of Rural Community Affairs: www.orca.state.tx.us
Preservation Easement Trust: www.preservationeasement.org/home
Preservation Directory: www.preservationdirectory.com
Preservation Texas: www.preservationtexas.org
Project for Public Spaces: www.pps.org
Rails to Trails: www.railstotrails.org
Sacred Places: www.sacredplaces.org
Scenic America: www.scenic.org
Texas Commission on the Arts: www.arts.state.tx.us
Texas Downtown Association: www.texasdowntown.org
Texas Folklife Resources: www.texasfolklife.org
Texas Historical Commission: www.thc.state.tx.us
Texas Parks and Wildlife: www.tpwd.state.tx.us
Texas Rural Leadership Program: www.trlp.org
Texas State Preservation Board: www.tspb.state.tx.us
Urban Land Institute: www.uli.org

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories