

# COLLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

“Where the past is always present.”



## In this issue

- CCHC Officers
- Programs and Activities
- Special Dates
- CCHC News
  - Assay Competition
  - Winners
  - State Marker Narratives
  - CCHC Art Competition
  - Speakers Bureau 2023-2024
  - THC Historical Marker Applications for 2023
  - Approved
  - CC Historical Property Tax Abatement
  - Meet the New Editor
  - Contact Information
  - CCHC Art Competition Flyer

## 2022-2023 CCHC Officers

Chairman: Paula Ross  
Vice Chairman: Nathan White  
Treasurer: Eric Hogue  
Rec. Secretary: Jan Thatcher

## Programs & Initiatives

State & County Historical Markers  
Preservation Celebration  
Historical Cemeteries Designation & Restoration  
Property Tax Abatement  
Speakers Bureau  
Newsletters & Publications  
Educational Children's Programs  
Seminars & Workshops  
County Historical Coalition  
Historical Grant Program  
Historical Asset Survey & Map

## Special 2023 Dates

Aug.: 31: CCHC Meeting – Election of Officers  
Sept. 28: CCHC Meeting – Planning for 2024  
Oct. 1: Deadline 2024 State Marker Narratives to CCHC  
Oct. 21: Coalition Meeting  
Oct. 22: Deadline Art Competition  
Oct. 31: Deadline Historical Property Tax Abatement  
Nov. 11: Speakers Bureau Workshop

**The purpose of the CCHC shall be the identification, preservation, protection and interpretation of the history of Collin County.**

## Collin County Historical Commission News

### CCHC Student Essay Competition Winners

The Collin County Historical Commission Essay Competition on:  
What was life like as a Collin County student in the past compared to today?

Elementary School- Abby Wilson  
Middle School- Achyut Ansa

### State Marker Narratives Deadline October 1, 2023

Send narratives to CCHC [CCHCmail@yahoo.com](mailto:CCHCmail@yahoo.com)

## CCHC Art Competition

The Collin County Historical Commission is hosting an art competition open to all k-12 students and adults on the following topic:

### Create a piece of art inspired by a Collin County Cemetery.

Winning submissions will be chosen from each of the following categories: elementary grades, middle school grades, high school, and adult.

To support your art, please refer to Joy Gough's book *Cemeteries of Collin County, Texas* or [www.collincountyhistory.com](http://www.collincountyhistory.com) as a resource.

**Art submissions:** Your art can be any medium. When submitting your art, please scan or photograph your piece (multiple photos can be taken if your piece is 3-dimensional). Send your photos to [CCHCsubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:CCHCsubmissions@gmail.com). With your email, please include your name, age, school, title of work, dimensions, medium used, and a paragraph describing your work.

**Submissions are due by 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 22, 2023**

## CCHC Speakers Bureau 2023-2024

The CCHC Speakers Bureau is a resource for you and your organization to utilize as you need expertise or just want an interesting program for your meeting. We have 20 speakers on various topics and skills. Go to [WWW.collincountytx.gov/Business-and-Living/Historical-Commission](http://WWW.collincountytx.gov/Business-and-Living/Historical-Commission) to see the 2023-2024 Speakers Bureau list of speakers, contact information and topics.

We can add new speakers anytime throughout the year. If you want to be added to the Bureau, send your contact information and a brief description of your topic and/or skill to share to [istovall@verizon.net](mailto:istovall@verizon.net).

### Alert:

**The CCHC website is under renovation and should be available soon.**

## THC Historical Marker Applications for 2023 Approved

The Texas Historical Commission has approved 3 Collin County historical marker applications for 2023:

Gussie Nell Davis- Farmersville native who created the Kilgore Rangerettes; Sugar Hill, an early community started in 1848; and the Glass Chapman Cemetery, started in 1852.

Two houses were also approved: the Housewright House in Wylie and the Price House in McKinney.

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## Collin County Historic Property Tax Abatement Process

Collin County has a Historic Property Tax Abatement program. Residential properties that qualify can get 100% Historic Property Tax abatement and Commercial properties can get 50% Historic Property Tax Abatement. The Collin County Historical Commission manages the program for the County Commissioners.

To qualify for the Historic Property Tax Abatement, a structure must be at least 50 years old and in good condition. The structure should appear as it was originally built with no added or removed rooms, for example.

Go to [https://www.collincountytx.gov/historical\\_commission/programs/Pages/taxabatements.aspx](https://www.collincountytx.gov/historical_commission/programs/Pages/taxabatements.aspx) to Download a tax abatement packet, which will include instructions and an application form. The applicant must submit a fully-documented and footnoted history of the property with photos of the structure, both historic and current if possible.

Send the application to [CCHCmail@yahoo.com](mailto:CCHCmail@yahoo.com) with the subject of Tax Abatement. Once an application has been approved by the Tax Abatement Committee, the property will be added to the list of properties to be inspected annually and the applicant will be notified of the approval.

Properties that have been approved for Historic Property Tax Abatement will be inspected in November to see if they are being well maintained. There is no warning period to make repairs. Currently there are about 250 properties in the county receiving Historic Property Tax Abatement.

**Deadline to submit is October 31, 2023.**

## Meet the New Editor Jennifer Wakefield

Meet our new editor and the newest member of the CCHC, Jennifer Wakefield. She is a 5<sup>th</sup> Generation Texan and descendant of Peter's Colonists: Wakefield, Smartt, Allen, Dunham, Medlin, and Loving. Born in Tyler, raised in Richardson, Jennifer lived in Wylie and now Plano, cultivating her interest in her family and community histories.

Jennifer is an agent with Keller Williams Plano. In her 16-year career as a Realtor, Jennifer offers her clients the unique service of Historic Expert, helping clients navigate the particular challenges of selling, buying and restoring historic properties.

Designations: Preservation Expert, Texas Historical Commission and Certified Local Government; Preservation Dallas, member; Wylie Historical Society, President – 2018 to Present; Historic Home Specialist, and Advanced Historic Home Specialist, Preservation Dallas

Community: Collin County Association of Realtors committees: Professional Development, TREPAC Interviews; Wylie Art Gallery Board of Directors; Wylie Cares, Board of Directors; Historic Review Commission, City of Wylie; Friends of Melissa's Parks; Eagle Mountain Church; Party Precinct Chair several times and Senatorial Delegate.

## CCHC

**Web Site: [WWW.collincountytx.gov/Business-and-Living/Historical-Commission](https://www.collincountytx.gov/Business-and-Living/Historical-Commission)**  
**Follow us: [WWW.facebook.com/CollinCountyHistoricalCommissionTexas](https://www.facebook.com/CollinCountyHistoricalCommissionTexas)**  
**Contact us: [CCHCmail@yahoo.com](mailto:CCHCmail@yahoo.com)**

## Alert:

**The CCHC website is under renovation and should be available soon.  
We will send out a notice when the website is up and running.**