

west columbia ROOTS

spring/summer 2022
city magazine

Inside...

HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

67TH ANNUAL SAN JACINTO FESTIVAL

46TH ANNUAL ROTARY SHRIMP BOIL, FISH FRY & LIVE AUCTION

ZACK WALTHER BAND: LOCAL BOY BACK IN TOWN

COLUMBIA HISTORICAL MUSEUM: SPECIAL SAN JACINTO DAY EXHIBIT

San Jacinto Festival Agenda Inside!

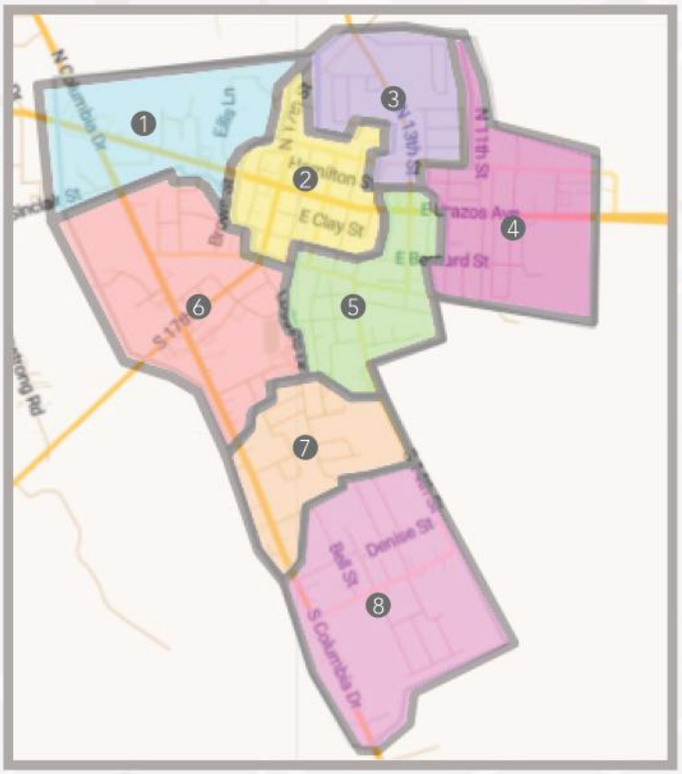
WHERE HISTORY AND PROGRESS DO A

Texas Two-Step

BAND TOGETHER FOR FIBER!

btel.com
(979)798-2121

Construction will happen per Fiberhood, so who's first? It could be you!



Band together for Btel Fiber!

The more interest in YOUR Fiberhood, the faster YOU get connected!

Here's how it works:

- Sign up for fiber at btel.com by clicking the "Sign up for Btel Fiber!" button at the very top of the page. Search for your address, then fill out and submit the form. Want to sign up now? Scan the QR code on this page!
- Help spread the word by encouraging your neighbors to sign up as well! Remember, the other Fiberhoods are your competition!
- Check btel.com regularly for updates.
- When your zone reaches its interest goal, you will then move into the sign-up phase!



Ask a realtor what the most important factor to ensure success is, and he or she will respond "Location; location; location." Pose that same question to a person involved with an organization or foundation, and he or she will respond, "Volunteers; volunteers; volunteers." The West Columbia community was built on the efforts of volunteers, and it is still dependent today. Two community based events occur in April: The San Jacinto Festival sponsored by the West Columbia Chamber of Commerce and the Shrimp Boil, Fish Fry and Live Auction sponsored by the Rotary Club. Both are annual traditions that require a large volunteer base.

The 67th Annual San Jacinto Festival is a celebration of our rich heritage in which West Columbia (Columbia in 1836) played a major role in Texas independence. The festival began as a corporation with a Who's Who cast of officers, board of directors, and committees. In 1954 ten young ladies from West Columbia and other surrounding towns were in competition for the coveted title Belle of the Brazos. The festival itself was held on Wednesday, April 21, 1954. Events included an historical trek to area sites, a "Greenback Tea" held at Varner Plantation, a barbecue, a parade at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Belle coronation. Following the coronation, a pageant was held at 8:00 p.m. at Griggs Field. The pageant "Song of the Brazos" was written by Mrs. J. C. Rogers, a local historian and wife of school superintendent "Jake" Rogers. It was directed by Mrs. Leonard Meyers, Jr., better known as Frances Ruth Grandstaff, the sister of Hollywood starlet Kathryn Grant who would become Mrs. Bing Crosby in 1957. The historical pageant was sponsored by the First Capitol Study Club, which was organized in 1940 and is still active today. The production had an extensive cast of characters with elaborate scenery and costumes. Local descendants of Moses Austin were included in the cast. As if this was not enough for a Wednesday, the evening culminated with a Grand Ball for the adults beginning at 9:30 p.m. and an Open House honoring the Belle candidates at the former Community House. It is indeed inspiring to see the level of participation required to pull off such an event as this.

The local Rotary Club, which is a part of Rotary International, was formed in 1944 and chartered in 1945. Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self." The Shrimp Boil fundraiser, in its 46th year, is the club's sole fundraising effort and provides monies for the local high school scholarships, Columbia United, Boy Scouts, and other community projects. Rotary could never undertake such a large task if it were not for community volunteers.

West Columbia NEEDS YOU. Hope to see you April 23!

Sincerely,

Laurie Beal Kincannon

Laurie Kincannon
Mayor, City of West Columbia



The Rotary Shrimp Boil, Fish Fry and Live Auction is back! Get out of the house and reconnect with neighbors during San Jacinto Day festivities under the pavilion with good food, friends and community spirit.

Rotary is celebrating the 46th event this April. The first West Columbia Rotary Shrimp Boil was in April 1975. The second year, 1976, Texas celebrated its bicentennial, and the Rotary shrimp boil was at the center of the celebrations. This year's San Jacinto Day festivities will also feature the shrimp boil, but this time the cheers are because the Covid-19 pandemic, in the United States, is under control.

Rotary was unable to hold the shrimp boil the last two years because of widespread mask mandates and fears of spreading the disease, but the club is ready to serve this year.

We're just known for having good food, a good auction and having a good time. All that goodness flows into Rotary's good works including scholarships to Columbia High School seniors, Little League, Columbia United, Boy Scouts and more.

The event typically raises between $15,000 and $20,000 each year. Past auction items have included furniture, services, experiences, trips and more.

See page 4 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Chris Miller

Chris Miller
Rotary President and Assistant Superintendent of CBISD

BTEL
Chevron-Phillips Chemical
Columbia-Brazoria ISD
Discovery Days Learning Center
Line Cutterz
Margarita Jones
Sonic
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
UTMB
Wes Griggs Law Firm
West Columbia Health Clinic
West Oaks Church

Things that come to mind when thinking of Brazoria County: the petrochemical industry, agriculture, and the beach. Polymers, cattle, rice, and sand aren't our only riches though. We have a wealth of talented musicians, including the Zack Walther Band. Learn more on page 5.

**On the cover: Photo provided by Zack Walther Band*



The serving line stayed busy in 2019, serving more than 1,000 plates.



Brian Lane, Chris Gerbich and Jared Huvar fry fish. Rotary boils 600 lbs of shrimp and fries 500 lbs of fish.

ROTARY SHRIMP BOIL, FISH FRY AND LIVE AUCTION **Continued from page 3**

Billy Jenn, who is in charge of the live auction, said he expects great attendance after the two-year hiatus.

"We're expecting a big turnout. Everybody's ready to get out," he said. *"We would appreciate everyone joining us. We'd love to see everybody out there. We certainly want to invite all the politicians running for office."*

The 46th annual West Columbia Rotary Shrimp Boil, Fish Fry and Live Auction is set for Saturday, April 23 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall's Sands Weems Memorial Pavilion. Plates are $15 and include fried fish, boiled shrimp, coleslaw, beans and a drink.

Call 979-481-0988 for tickets or information.

MUSEUM WILL OPEN DOORS WITH SPECIAL SAN JACINTO DAY EXHIBIT

San Jacinto Day is a multi-day festival filled with pageants, a parade, music, food and more. Why does Texas celebrate San Jacinto Day? What does San Jacinto mean?

The Columbia Historical Museum has the answers, and will share them using a special exhibit set up during the San Jacinto Festival. Briefly, San Jacinto Day is the celebration of the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. That was the final battle of the Texas Revolution where Texas won its independence from Mexico.

Learn all about San Jacinto Day and how West Columbia played such a pivotal role in the new nation of Texas. The museum will have activities for children, videos, photos and artifacts on display.

Museum board members Christina DeWitt and Susan Avera Holt are coordinating the temporary exhibit and welcome artifacts from the community. Email them at columbiahistoricalmuseum@gmail.com.

The Columbia Historical Museum is located at 247 E. Brazos Avenue (State Highway 35) and is open Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Photo courtesy of The Columbia Historical Museum.



ZACK WALTHER BAND



Photo courtesy of Zack Walther Band.

Things that come to mind when thinking of Brazoria County: the petrochemical industry, agriculture, and the beach. Polymers, cattle, rice, and sand aren't our only riches though. We have a wealth of talented musicians, including the Zack Walther Band. Lead singer and guitarist Zack Walther and Matthew Briggs, who plays guitar, keyboards, and drums, have been best friends since they were kids growing up in West Columbia.

As students at Columbia High School, Zack sang in the choir and Matt played in the band until they both graduated in 1998, when the duo formed their first professional band and played cover songs. Zack had known since he was 14 that music would be his career. It was at Texas State University that he began to take notice of the singers and songwriters who ultimately influenced his music. After college graduation, the classically trained musician moved to the New Braunfels area and was cut off from his West Columbia roots for a time. Then the Walther-Briggs duo began traveling back south for high school reunions and to play gigs at local venues.

In spite of loving his new home in New Braunfels, Zack speaks fondly of his childhood in West Columbia. *"It's such a weird place. It's hot and muggy with mosquitoes the size of hummingbirds, but there's a charm to it. I have so much pride and love because it's where I grew up. I love the area and the history here."* In fact, when Zack introduces the band at shows, he and Matt always make a point to say they're from the first capital of Texas. The band members also draw references to images and memories from their childhoods on tracks like "Shake Off the Fuzz" and "Bailey's Light."

When the band was in the area last year to play at the Brazoria County Fair, they took their crew down memory lane and showed them places they'd frequented in their youths, such as the baseball field and junior high. Zack states, *"It was really cool to see what the town is compared to then. I can't wait to come back again. I plan to bring my whole family,"* which includes his wife of twelve years and two children, 11 and 8 years old. For more information on the band and their plans, visit www.zackwaltherband.com.

Catch Zack Walther Band live at the 67th annual San Jacinto Festival on Friday, April 22 from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. under the American Legion Pavilion. Admission is ***FREE*** to the public.





Your Primary Care Providers



Your full service hospital, right here close to home.

- Family Medicine
- Adult Medicine
- Surgical Services
- Diagnostic Imaging
- 3D Digital Mammography
- Pain Management
- Physical Therapy/ Fitness Center
- Wound Treatment & Hyperbaric Center
- Swing Bed/Respite
- Cardiopulmonary
- Nephrology
- Laboratory
- Hospice Care
- Podiatry
- EMS

LIKE US ON facebook

West Columbia Health Clinic
668 West Brazos Ave.
West Columbia, TX 77486
979-345-2525

Kitty Nash Groce
Rehabilitation Center Physical Therapy
301 Dance Drive
West Columbia, Tx 77486
979-345-3168

SWEENY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
You'll Know We Care

www.sweenyhospital.org
305 N. McKinney Sweeny, TX • 979-548-1500

APRIL

San Jacinto Festival

4/21-23 Special San Jacinto Day Exhibit from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Thurs. and Fri) and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sat.) at The Columbia Historical Museum
4/22 BBQ Cook-Off begins at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Hall
4/22 Opening Ceremonies at 7:30 p.m.
4/22 Live Music Zack Walther Band at 8:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, ***FREE to the public!***
4/23 5K and Kids 1K Run at 6:30 a.m. at Hanson Park
4/23 Parade at 10 a.m., Downtown West Columbia
4/23 Trade Days at the Civic Center from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
4/23 Car Show/Margarita Jones from 11 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.
4/23 Belle of the Brazos Coronation at 11 a.m. at the American Legion Hall
4/23 Rotary Shrimp Boil, Fish Fry & Auction from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall
4/23 BBQ Cook-Off Awards at 5 p.m.
4/30 Columbia United Methodist Church Fish Fry Fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MAY

5/5 National Day of Prayer at noon at Capitol of Texas Park (Walgreen's)
5/7 Mother's Day Shopping Event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
5/15 A Day of Remembrance at Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site (time TBA)
5/21 Market Days at Varner-Hogg Plantation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
5/28 Grit Games KIDS at 8 a.m. at 431 S. 17th St.
5/30 Memorial Day Breakfast from 7a.m. to 9 a.m. at Masonic Lodge
5/30 Memorial Day Ceremony at 5 p.m. at American Legion Hall

JUNE

6/4 Sip, Shop & Stroll Downtown West Columbia Summer Event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
6/12-17 Columbia United/Giving Back to the Community All Day
6/18 Market Days at Varner-Hogg Plantation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
6/26 CEMS Drive-thru Fundraiser at 11 a.m.

JULY

7/4 American Legion Hall July 4th Celebration from 10 a.m. to 3pm
7/4 Back Yard Fireworks at 9 p.m.-ish at the Little League Baseball Field
7/11-13 Apostolic Lighthouse UPC Vacation Bible School from 6 to 8 p.m.
7/13 Columbia United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School (time TBA)
7/14 Apostolic Lighthouse UPC Back 2 School Rally from 6 to 8 p.m.
7/16 Market Days at Varner-Hogg Plantation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AUGUST

8/20 Market Days at Varner-Hogg Plantation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
8/20 Columbia United Methodist Church Fish Fry Fundraiser at 11 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

9/3 Fall Shopping Event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
TBA Paint the Town Maroon
9/10 Hal & Mary Fields Day at Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site (time TBA)
9/17 Market Days at Varner-Hogg Plantation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
9/17 DAR Bells Across America - Constitution Day (time TBA)
9/24 The Fabulous West Columbia Chamber Gala/Casino Night at 6:30 p.m.
9/27 CEMS Annual Fried Chicken Drive-thru Fundraiser at 11 a.m. until sold out, 400 N. 13th St.

H-E-B Helping Here
Proudly Sponsors Backyard Fireworks!
Thank You, H-E-B!!!

For more detailed event info, follow Tour West Columbia TX on Facebook or visit westcolumbiatx.org

67th ANNUAL

SAN JACINTO FESTIVAL

APRIL 22-23, 2022

American Legion, West Columbia TX 77486

Friday, April 22nd

4 PM - 7 PM	KidZone FREE
4 PM - 7:30 PM	Trade Days (Civic Center)
5 PM	Belle Pageant (WC First Baptist)
5 PM - 7:30 PM	Live Music - Adam York
6 PM	BBQ Cook-Off Begins
7:30 PM	Opening Ceremonies
8:30 PM - 11:30 PM	Live Music - Zack Walther Band

FREE

Saturday, April 23rd

6:30 AM	Grit Fitness 5k and Kids 1k Run (Hanson Park)
10 AM	Parade
11 AM - 6 PM	Trade Days (Civic Center)
11 AM - 6 PM	KidZone FREE
11 AM - 2:15 PM	Car Show (Margarita Jones)
11 AM	Belle Coronation
11 AM - 1:30 PM	Rotary Shrimp Boil, Fish Fry and Live Auction
2:30 PM - 6 PM	Local Entertainment
5 PM	BBQ Cook-off Awards



SWEENY REFINERY
75TH ANNIVERSARY

West Columbia Chamber of Commerce | 979-345-3921 | westcolumbiachamber@gmail.com



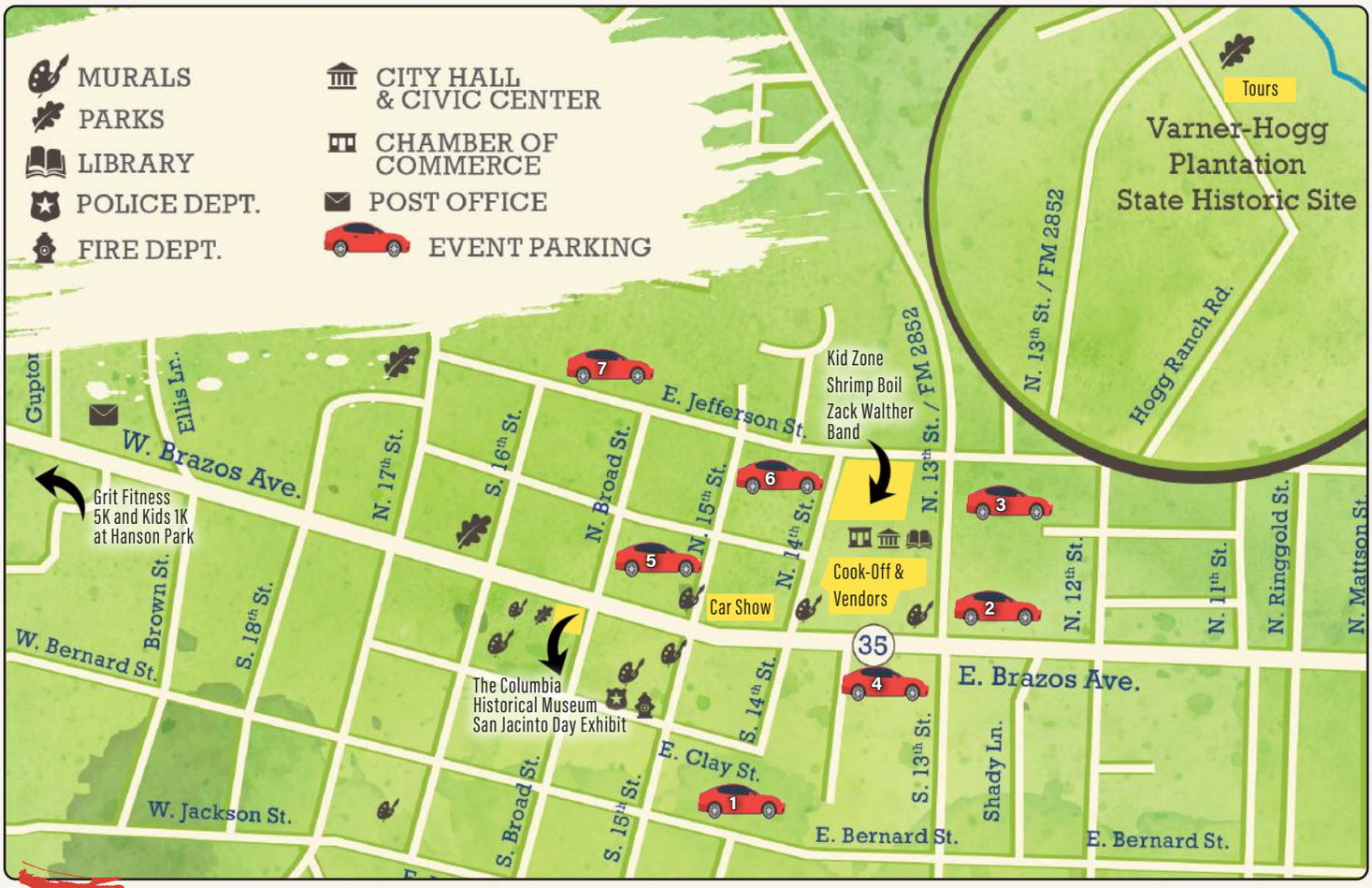
At Chevron Phillips Chemical, we responsibly manufacture chemicals and polymers the world needs, provide enriching careers and create shareholder value because we care about each other, our customers and our communities.

We live by our values of safety, respect, integrity and drive, which enable us to make the petrochemical solutions found in products of all kinds, with purpose, collaboration and care.

Proud sponsor of the San Jacinto Festival.

Connect with us online
www.cpchem.com

Chevron Phillips CHEMICAL



Festival Parking

1. Heritage Hall - 508 E. Bernard St.
2. Weems Wagon Works/Sun, Glass & Tires - 614 E. Brazos Ave.
3. Event Parking - N. 13th St./E. Jefferson
4. Cornerstone Builders/Realtors - 521 E. Brazos Ave.
5. Jenn's Furniture - 302 E. Brazos Ave.
6. Warrior's Refuge - 212 N. 14th St.
7. Event Parking - Between N. 16th St. and N. Broad St. on E. Jefferson St.



67TH ANNUAL SAN JACINTO FESTIVAL

By LaBonne Casey, West Columbia Chamber of Commerce CEO/President









Top left: Past San Jacinto Festival Parade marching down E. Brazos Ave. Top right: Early San Jacinto Cook-off in progress. Bottom left: 2019 Belle of the Brazos Pageant. Bottom right: San Jacinto Parade 2019. Photos courtesy of West Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Come join us for a day trippin' weekend around downtown West Columbia during the San Jacinto Festival! This event will include historical sites opened free to the public, a number of food vendors joining our restaurants, and enough entertainment to keep you downtown all day. The San Jacinto Festival, now in its 67th year, showcases the very best West Columbia has to offer. The festival will span multiple downtown blocks, highlighted as a pedestrian-designated festival site for easy access and a family-friendly event, with small town culture and fun.

We are proud to announce Phillips 66 is the San Jacinto Festival Premier Sponsor. Phillips 66, now in its 75th year in Old Ocean, is a stellar community partner and has always demonstrated their commitment to our local community.

Friday festivities kick off with a tour de force of BBQ teams who are known to compete in a fierce manner! The most coveted cash prize is the $1,000 for the Champion Brisket, and top 3 places in brisket, chicken, and ribs garner cash prizes. The BBQ Cook-Off is sponsored by Prosperity Bank, West Columbia. The Chamber's Trade Days will be open at 4 p.m. on Friday. Unique and custom wares will be presented on both Friday afternoon and Saturday. The Opening Ceremony will be at 7:30 p.m., with visiting dignitaries and officials present to be introduced and to open the festivities.

The favorite highlight of the weekend is the ***FREE*** concert by local native, Zack Walther Band. The Zack Walther Band will play at 8:30 p.m., after being opened by another local talent, Adam York, at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday morning comes early, with the 5K and 1K Grit Fitness run at 6:30 a.m. at Hanson Riverside County Park, sponsored by Chevron Phillips Chemical.

At 10 a.m., Grand Marshal Zack Walther Band will start out on Roughneck Drive and lead San Jacinto Parade participants through town, finishing at Prosperity Bank.

The parade theme this year will be red, white, and blue. Goody bags will be given to the first 100.

The Kid Zone, sponsored by local churches and other civic organizations, is ***FREE*** to all children.

The Car Show, sponsored and hosted by Margarita Jones, will start at 11 a.m. in their far west parking lot. Vintage cars will be judged, with cash awards given at 2:15 p.m.

One of the greatest traditions, the Belle of the Brazos Pageant, will be presented at 11 a.m. at the American Legion stage. The 2022 Belle will be crowned and presented with her court at that time. The Belle will be awarded the Jeanne Tillman scholarship, sponsored by the West Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

The Rotary Shrimp Boil, Fish Fry, and Live Auction is returning this year after a two year absence due to Covid. Rotary will have plates available at the American Legion Pavilion at 11 a.m. and also a drive-thru option on Jefferson Street, behind the pavilion. The Rotary auction will follow at the same location with events scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Jana's School of Dance will provide local entertainment from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.

BBQ awards will be presented at 5 p.m. at the American Legion Pavilion, helping us wind down the festive weekend with generous cash awards.

The Columbia Historical Museum will have a special San Jacinto exhibit as well as activities for children, videos, photos and artifacts on display. Visit them Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Varner-Hogg Plantation will be open for tours during the San Jacinto Festival. As an added bonus, Varner Hogg will allow back gate access for Columbia Lakes residents and others. Plan to pre-purchase the $10 gate fee at the historical site, and during the San Jacinto Festival the gate fee will be $15.

This year a number of changes have been instituted for the festival, with historical sites opened and triple the designated parking spaces from previous years. Plans include directional maps to be provided; banners showcasing events, sponsors, and historical sites; and marked event zones throughout the festival area.

utmb Health
Brazoria County Care
utmbhealth.com/brazoria-county



Ambulance
Central Emergency Medical Service, Inc.
979.345.2390
central-ems.org

Animal Control/ Pet Registration
Shana Burton
979.345.5121
westcolumbiatx.org

Cable/Internet
Sparklight
844.216.9190

Chamber of Commerce/ Visitors Center
LaBonne Casey
979.345.3921
westcolumbiachamber.com

Brazoria County Commissioner Pct. 4
David Linder
979.482.1356

Drainage District
Mark Ducroz
979.345.4184

West Columbia Volunteer Fire Department
Chief Michael Eulenfeld
979.345.3416

Gas Company
CenterPoint Energy
800.752.8036
CenterPointenergy.com

West Columbia Health Clinic
979.345.2525



Does City Hall have your updated contact information? (Home, cell, email, etc.) Notify us so we can notify you with

CRITICAL COMMUNITY ALERTS

Medical Leaders & Associates
979.345.6522

Justice of the Peace
Sherry Kersh
979.345.2671
brazoria-county.com

Municipal Court
Judge Sherry Kersh
979-345-4832
Westcolumbiatx.org

Library
979.345.3394
bcls.lib.tx.us

Museum
Columbia Historical Museum
979.345.6125
columbiahistoricalmuseum.org

Police Department
Chief/EM Paul Odin
979.345.5121
westcolumbiapolice.org

Post Office
usps.com

Power Companies
powertochoose.org

School District
Columbia-Brazoria ISD
979.345.5147
cbisd.com

Telephone/Internet
Century Link
800.788.3500

Trash Pick Up
Waste Connections
979.864.4600
wasteconnections.com

Vehicle Registration
Kristin R. Bulanek
979.345.5914
brazoria-county.com



Elected Officials

979.345.3123 ▪ westcolumbiatx.org

Mayor
Laurie Kincannon

Mayor Pro-Tem
Dietrich von Biedenfeld

Councilmen
Robert Thomas - Position 1
Charley Tindol - Position 2
Roy Maynor - Position 3
Rory Burke - Position 4

City Contacts

512 E. Brazos Ave. ▪ West Columbia
979.345.3123 ▪ westcolumbiatx.org

City Hall

City Manager
Debbie Sutherland

City Secretary
Kaili Avirett

Economic Dev./Tourism
Chris McCann

Building Insp./Code Enf.
Mike Azbell

Court
Paola Davidson

Utilities/Permits
Melissa Shade

Finance
Yvonne Darrell

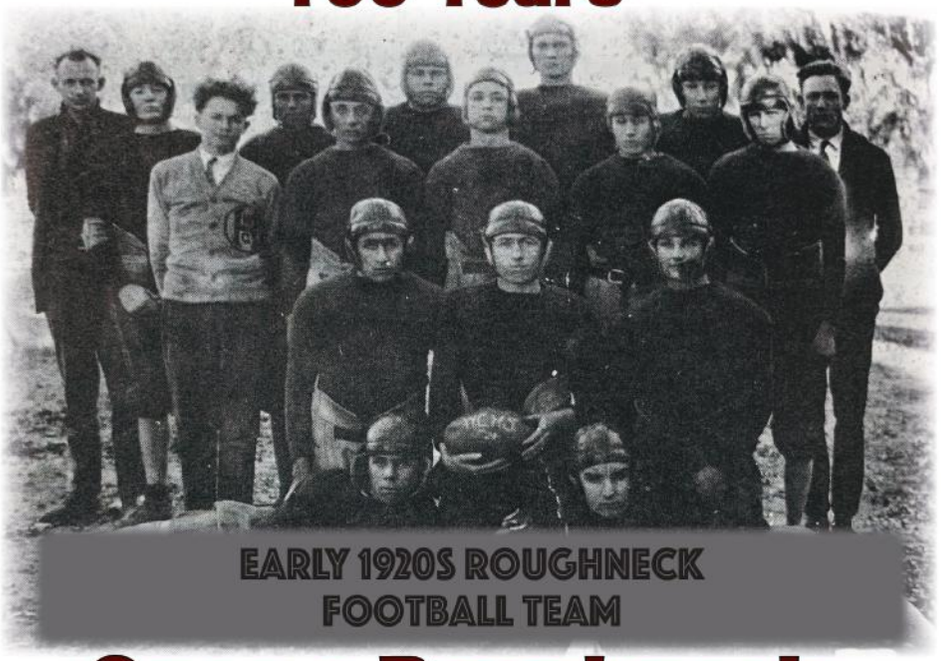




COLUMBIA - BRAZORIA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

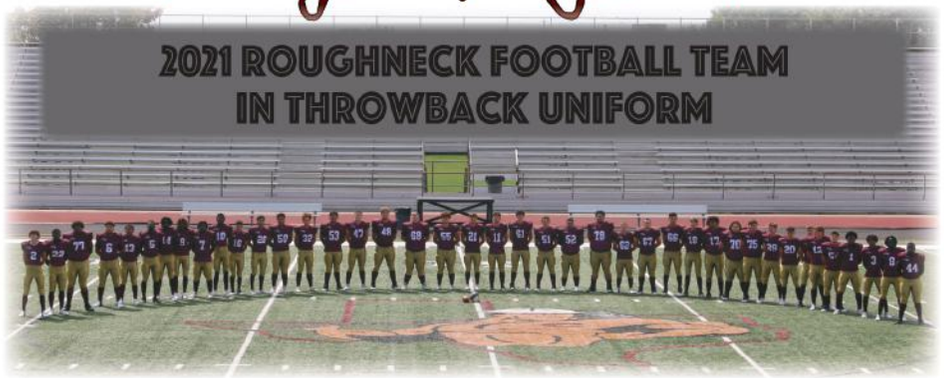
Welcome to Roughneck Country

Roughneck Football Celebrates 100 Years



EARLY 1920S ROUGHNECK FOOTBALL TEAM

Once a Roughneck Always a Roughneck



2021 ROUGHNECK FOOTBALL TEAM IN THROWBACK UNIFORM

WE ARE CBISD

Columbia-Brazoria Independent School District

EDITOR: City of West Columbia
GRAPHIC DIRECTOR: Robin Pavlovsky
CONTRIBUTORS: LaBonne Casey, Jami Doddroe, Sara Henry, Susan Avera Holt, Laurie Kincannon, and Chris Miller
PHOTOGRAPHER: Zack Walther Band and contributed
West Columbia ROOTS is published by YelloLark Creative LLC, P.O. Box 1248, West Columbia, TX 77486. West Columbia ROOTS © 2022-2023 by City of West Columbia, all rights reserved. All editorial belongs solely to City of West Columbia ROOTS. Reproduction in whole or part without express written permission is strictly prohibited.

WEST COLUMBIA 1836
EAT ⊛ DRINK ⊛ SHOP
TOUR
WEST COLUMBIA, TX
512 E. Brazos Ave.
West Columbia, TX 77486

PRSRT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Angleton, TX
Permit #27
BayStar Printing

**********ECRWSSEDDM****

Postal Customer

SPRING TRAINING BEGINS!
CATCH DINNER IN WEST COLUMBIA BEFORE THE GAME!
SONIC
SM
99¢
Large Regular Drink with Purchase of an Entrée
*Add ons cost extra. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per visit. Offer expires 12/31/22.
BROWN BAG SPECIAL
$12.99
*Add ons cost extra. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per visit. Offer expires 12/31/22.
FREE
Ice Cream Cone with Purchase of Combo
(Excluding Wacky Packs)
*Add ons cost extra. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per visit. Offer expires 12/31/22.
730 S. COLUMBIA DRIVE, WEST COLUMBIA · 979-345-5171