

SPOTLIGHT

Texas is made up of 254 counties, each with a team of locally elected and appointed county officials serving their community. Polk County's elected offices include a County Judge and four Road & Bridge Commissioners that make up the Commissioners Court, the County Court at Law Judge, four Justices of the Peace, four Constables, a County Clerk, District Clerk, District Attorney, Treasurer, Tax Assessor-Collector and Sheriff.

There is no hierarchy in county government, so the only boss of these elected officials is ***You, the People.***

There are two District Court systems that serve Polk County, the 258th and the 411th Courts, which are responsible for appointing our County Auditor. The County Judge appoints the Emergency Management Coordinator, and all other officials are appointed by the Commissioners Court to run various county departments. These include Aging Services Director, Environmental Enforcement Officer, Fire Marshal, Grant & Contract Coordinator, Human Resources Manager, IT & Systems Administrator, Maintenance Superintendent, Museum Curator, Permits/Inspections Supervisor, Social Services Director and Veterans Services Officer. Learn more about your local offices by reading this latest installment of

Spotlight on Polk County:

Polk County Memorial Museum

514 W. Mill St. Livingston, TX 77351

936-327-8192

Polk County

SPOTLIGHT ON POLK COUNTY: Curator Betsy Deiterman

Polk County Memorial Museum is your resource for local history, and is the keeper of historically significant objects and stories. As the Museum Curator, I am tasked to represent all residents of Polk County, and I research Polk County history constantly to be able to tell her stories. I am honored to be here.

I produce an average of seven temporary exhibits every year which have a limited run. The focus of these short-term exhibits varies, but I try to choose topics that are timely and attractive to a wide circle of interests. Most of these exhibits have a local connection; some have universal appeal.

In Fiscal Year 2022, I produced these short-term exhibits:

October 2021: Texas Archaeology Month

February 2022: The History, Legends and Traditions of Valentine's Day

March 2022: Is it Blarney, a Bunch of Malarkey, or Just Some Shenanigans? It's St. Patrick's Day!

May 2022: World Bee Day

June 2022: Livingston Art League Exhibition

July 2022: "Wrong Way" Corrigan

August 2022: US Coast Guard Anniversary

These are in the planning stages:

September 15 – October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month

November: Charles Schulz's 100th Birthday (The Peanuts Gang)

In addition to researching and producing temporary exhibits, I evaluate the permanent exhibits and create descriptive text labels as necessary. Some permanent features are rotated out to make room for new or revised narratives to better represent our residents. I look for interesting stories about our collections to entertain and educate visitors. I assist researchers who are working on topics including local landmarks, families and personal genealogy.

Additionally, I catalog museum collections on specialized software which includes detailed descriptions, measurements and photographs of objects, books and archives. I am building an extensive database which eventually will be available for viewing online. I evaluate potential donation items for appropriateness to our mission and vision for the museum with the opportunity to enhance the Polk County narratives.

The Museum is located at 514 West Mill St, Livingston, Texas. (936) 327-8192. More information can be found at www.polkcountymemorialmuseum.com