



First Jenks Arkansas River Bridge



**JENKS AMERICA MUSEUM  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

# JAM NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 5. 2025

**A lot is happening with the JAM**

## **The next JAM meeting is:**

Monday, Sept. 8

Time: 6 p.m.

Where: Louie's Grill & Bar in Jenks

## **Strategic Planning meeting:**

Saturday, Sept. 6

Time: 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Where: St. James Presbyterian Church  
11970 S. Elm in Jenks (enter from the  
West parking lot)

## **Plaque Fundraising and Installation Update**

We are pleased to announce that the school post plaque fund has reached its goal. The historic post is located at 3rd and Main streets, in front of 180-degree Kitchen Designs, and originally stood at the southwest corner of the original school grounds, having been installed around 1910.

A total of \$1,891.66 has been raised, enabling us to order the commemorative plaque. Delivery is expected in approximately six weeks. Once received, we will proceed with the installation and plan a dedication ceremony. Further details will be shared soon – stay tuned for updates.

Thank you to our Donors to the Plaque Fund to date!

Ed Phillips	Brian Sherman
Wayne Parker Jr.	Jon Winston
Earlena Green	Jan Preglar
Cory Box	Betsy Maerker
Brian Sherman	Tulsa Community
Vic Vreeland	Foundation
Sue Featherston	City of Jenks
Debbie Gwartney	Carmaletea & Lonnie
Elizabeth Libby Nolan	Harlason
Dorothy Thompson	Pat & Marshaleta Taylor



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## Upcoming Library History Event

Date: Saturday, September 27

· Time: 10:30 a.m.

· Location: Jenks Library, 523 E. B St.  
Jenks



### About the Presenter

John Beaver, who serves as the curator of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Cultural Center and Archives in Okmulgee, will be leading the event. As the nephew of former Jenks High School Football Coach Perry Beaver, John spent a great deal of his childhood in Jenks. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in anthropology, museology and museum administration/collections.

During his presentation, John will explore the 1866 treaty with the U.S. government, which is central to the tribe's legal status and ongoing relationship with the federal government. He will also offer perspectives on the 1832 removal to what is now Oklahoma and detail the Muscogee Nation's history following the Civil War. Following his talk, there will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

## Recap of Previous Library History Event Aug. 23

**Presenter: Former Jenks City Manager Randy Ewing**

The previous library history event featured former City Manager Randy Ewing, drawing an engaged audience interested in the evolution of Jenks. During his presentation, Randy recounted pivotal moments that have shaped the city as it stands today. He reflected on his first impressions of Jenks during his initial interview visits and described the collaborative process behind crafting a forward-looking vision for the community.

### Key Developments in Jenks' Growth

Randy addressed the city's remarkable population growth, noting the increase from 5,000 residents in 1981 to approximately 29,000 in recent years. He discussed significant decisions made during his tenure, such as the strategic placement of the Creek Turnpike, the establishment of the Oklahoma Aquarium and the development of the Village on Main. These projects, he explained, were instrumental in guiding Jenks' expansion and shaping its current identity.