

# TIME CAPSULE

Newsletter of the **FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

*An affiliate of the Fort Bend History Association*

600 Houston Street / Richmond, TX 77469, 281-342-6478 ext. 1301

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## Moving Forward in 2024

As we all experienced, the entire world was impacted by the pandemic just a couple of years ago. All aspects of our daily lives have changed. In many ways, we are still adjusting. New experiences came about because of what we went through and many things we thought would always be there disappeared. The archeological society continued with excavations without interruption. We did not hold in-person meetings for most of that year. Eventually, members and guests started to return as it became safer to do so. The society's normal business has not bounced back yet. Fewer people are showing up for meetings and guest speakers have been exceedingly difficult to find and book. The number of our active volunteers has dwindled. I know we can bounce back but we need your help.

You are a member of the society because you are interested in history and archeology. Besides digging or working with the artifacts, there are other ways you can help to make a significant impact on our group. I have asked our current society officers and board members to stay on in their positions going into the new year, but we certainly could use more help. At this time, we are in need of a secretary, additional board members and someone who can help us find guests speakers for our lecture series. We will have fewer in person meetings this year while we build our strength back up. I ask that you consider trying something new this year by spending a little of your time and expertise with the archeological society. Just a few hours of your time will go a long way to spread the love and knowledge of Texas history across our county. Reach out and let us know how you can help.

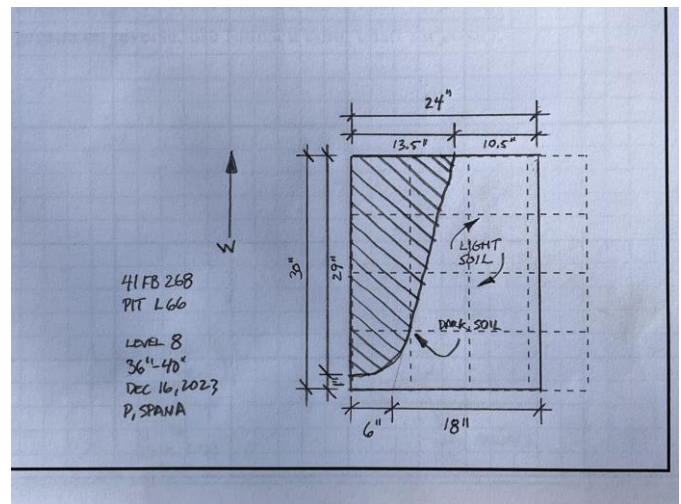
Thank you,  
Paul Spana, FBAS President



**Excavation Site** – Our current excavation site is at a historic homesite near Richmond, Texas. FBAS volunteers dig every Saturday morning and are always making discoveries. Come see first hand what we're doing. You can see the site and even join in the work if you like. Work begins every Saturday morning at 9:00 am.



This past weekend, we uncovered this small rectangular bottle. The bottle is about 3-1/2" long and is in great condition. The bottom has a raised letter "T" which is the maker's mark. FBAS member John Rich, says the "T" maker's mark seems to be from Toledo Bottle Co. located in Toledo, Ohio. It was made some time in the years 1916-1920. Many of the artifacts we find are from that time period. It about 100 years later than the artifacts we would rather find. The image on the right is a ceramic sherd from what we think is a hand made beer bottle. If that's what it is, then it would be from the 1860s period which we're more interested in.



The image on the left shows the southern wall of the root cellar we're investigating in Pit L66. The lighter colored soil is the inside of the root cellar and the darker color is the undisturbed soil outside of the root cellar. The depth of the pit floor is at 36" below ground level. The image on the right shows a drawing of the next level which is at 40". We always document the pits by taking a photo of the pit as well as with a drawing. The drawing serves as a back up and also allows us to record notes.



## Meeting Minutes

### December 19, 2023

The Fort Bend Archeological Society celebrated a year of archeology with a holiday dinner at the Fort Bend Museum in Richmond, Texas. In attendance were twelve members who brought delicious food and dessert to the potluck event. The society provided a baked ham as the main course. President Paul Spana called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### Old Business:

- Excavation work continues at the Lamar homesite. FBAS members are investigating a root cellar at the site of Mirabeau Lamar's home.

#### New Business:

- Spana discussed how the number of FBAS volunteers has continued to decline. Participation has been on the decline since the epidemic. There are at least four positions vacant on the FBAS board. No new nominations came forward for 2024, so Spana asked if those currently in officer or board positions would continue in their role. Those present agreed to do so for now. Current positions vacant include Secretary, Membership Coordinator, and two Board Members.
- Another major issue is the difficulty of booking speakers for the meetings. In 2023, we were not successful booking speakers for each of the quarterly meetings. When FBAS did have a speaker, very few people attended. In 2023, virtual meetings were held for the months in-between the times the society held in-person meetings. Board member David Rose and the president were usually the only two who would attend.
- One idea is not to have monthly meetings and to put the effort into quarterly in-person meetings with a guest speaker. Claire Rogers made a motion to amend the by-laws to allow this to happen. Bob Crosser seconded the motion. Rogers suggested the meetings be held on a different day from the quarterly Fort Bend County Historical Meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Minutes submitted by Paul Spana

## Treasurer's Report

<b>Balance as of August 8, 2023</b>				<b>\$5,962.85</b>
Deposit	8/24/2023	FBHA	Jay Roussel ind & Chevron match donation Polly Shouse in honor of Merrick	+ 110.00
Deposit	10/27/2023	FBHA	"Milo Moves"	+ 400.00
Deposit	10/27/2023	FBHA	Jay Roussel ind & Chevron match	+ 120.00
Deposit	12/15/2023	FBHA	Jay Roussel individual & Chevron match	+ 60.00
		Claire		
1994	1/11/2024	Rogers	ham for Christmas party	- 55.29
<b>Balance as of January 11, 2024</b>				<b>\$6,597.56</b>
Submitted by Claire Rogers, Treasurer				