Don't Forget to Observe Texas Independence Day

Monday, March 2, is Texas Independence Day, the celebration of the adoption of the Texas Declaration of Independence. 59 delegates signed the document on that day in 1836 creating the Republic of Texas.

Please plan to mark this important occasion. One THF director hands out small Texas flags to her neighbors so that the Lone Star banner is flying in her area on street after street. Another wears a small Texas flag lapel pin to prompt interesting conversations throughout the day. How do you plan to remember Texas Independence Day?

Grant Helps Town That Was the First Capital of the Republic of Texas

THF directors Julie Sparks, fourth from the left; Bruce Elsom, on her left, and Michael Sparks, next, in the back, presented a grant check to the Columbia Heritage Foundation that will help repair the Heritage Hall roof. The nonprofit was founded to save an old school and convert it into a historical and cultural center.

As we prepare to celebrate Texas Independence Day, it's interesting to note that Columbia was the first capital of the Republic of Texas.

THF Director Sylvia Tillotson Honored with Statewide Award

The Texas Historical Commission named Sylvia Tillotson winner of the George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award. In addition to her work with the Foundation, Tillotson was one of the organizers of the Friends of Casa Navarro in San Antonio, a group that works to keep the legacy of Tejano statesman José Navarro, her great-great-great grandfather, alive.

National Grant Assistance Available to Historic Houses of Worship

Recognizing the importance of historic houses of worship to people and communities, the National Fund for Sacred Places is offering grants up to $250,000 to congregations of all faiths for rehabilitation work on their historic facilities. Submit a letter of intent by April 22, and see this link for more information.

Grants Deadlines Announced

Since 1990, more than 300 historic preservation projects have received funding from the Texas Historical Foundation. Proposals are reviewed quarterly; upcoming deadlines for THF grant consideration are:

- March 1
- April
- June 1
- September 1
- December 1

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