What's Happening!
May 22 Senior Bladesmith Class
May 28 Blacksmith Association Meeting
Jun. 1 & 8, 16, 23 Gladys City in July (only Kid’s Day)
Jul. 11 & 25 Family Programs begin

A Blast from the Past!

With Summer coming on and kids get outside, we thought we would feature this picture of a penny-farthing that was used at an event at the museum in the 1980s. While the penny-farthing was mostly used before 1901, there were still some races with them until the 1920s. Wouldn't it be cool to have a penny-farthing for an event here?

Gushers in July

Also, in July, is our 3rd season of “Gushers in July”! Every Wednesday, at noon, we will blow the gusher. Visitors can run out cool down in the water if so desired or just have a great time with their families. Last year, these gushers brought 50-100 people every Wednesday. This year the Southeast Texas Food Bank will have a barrel here to collect food. “We love connecting to other charities like the Food Bank during our events,” Troy Gray said.

Gladys City Live

The museum held its 2nd “Gladys City Live” event on May 4. First scheduled on April 13, it had to be postponed due to the weather conditions. About 100 visitors enjoyed conversations and taking pictures with 12 costumed characters. They also enjoyed shopping in the buildings with 1901 money. This year, 5 lucky families went home with a genuine 1901 coin that was donated by Don Smart to give out. The families only had to tell the date of the 1st gusher. Also we had Lion Coffee that was generously donated by the Hawaii Coffee Company. Other items that could be bought included root beer in the Saloon, hair pins and bandanas in the dry goods store, coffee and candy in the general store, stock certificates in the oil exchange building, and ice cream in the drug store. It was a good time for everyone.

Starting on July 11, we will have family programs from 5 pm-7 pm every 2nd and 4th Thursdays. These programs will be different every time and will include games, music, crafts, re-enactors, and more from 1901. Members will be free and non-members will pay regular admission. The programs are designed to introduce the turn of the 20th century in a fun and engaging way. All members of the family will come away knowing a little more about the life of a person on a farm in Beaumont during the oil boomdays. “We hope that it will be marked on your calendars as they will be fun,” said Director Troy Gray.

In the month of June, we will start a “1901 Campaign”. We are raising money to redo the outsides of the buildings. Each building will be between $16,000 and $38,000 depending on the size of the building. Look for our poster board that has envelopes marked $0.19(01); $1.90(1); $19.01; $190.10; or $1901.00. You can also give online at https://www.lamar.edu/spindletop-gladys-city/ways-to-give.html.

Message from the Director

Director Troy Gray writes: “I’m coming up on completing 4 years as the director of the museum on July 1. It’s been a great time seeing the museum transform into one that is usable, reliable, and great. We have updated signs, painted the bathrooms and Caroline Room, installed new floor in the Caroline Room, made new walkways, and more. We have started a membership and sponsorship program and increased attendance and revenue. We still have work to do. I don’t wish to see the last date that the buildings are open because we still want to ensure the longevity of the building. Thank you all for your help to help return the museum to the best standards.”