

History of Rosenberg

Located 35 miles southwest of Houston, Rosenberg was founded on a site in the original Mexican land grant of early settler Henry Scott, where a small, nameless shipping point existed on the Brazos River. The town developed after the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe (GC&SF) Railroad arrived in 1880 and built a station where it crossed the Buffalo, Brazos & Colorado Railroad. In 1881, Count Joseph Telfener, an Italian investor, set up offices in the fledgling community to build the New York, Texas & Mexican Railway, which extended to Victoria and was coined the "Macaroni Line" after the Italian immigrants who built the line.

In 1883, the GC&SF Railroad bought and platted a 200-acre site and named the community after the railroad's president, Henry von Rosenberg of Galveston. R. T. Mulcahy, coined the "Father of Rosenberg," arrived in 1883, and for 40 years promoted schools, business, and government. The first newspaper, *The Silver X-Ray*, was founded in 1895 and the Methodist and Baptist churches were active before 1900. In 1912 city water and electric lights came to the city along with the chartering of one of the first Boy Scout troops in Texas.

By 1920, oil and sulphur discoveries along with highway development made Rosenberg a center of trade and steady growth, and in the 1940s Rosenberg was known as the "Hub of the Gulf Coast". Today, Rosenberg is experiencing unprecedented growth in commercial and residential development while holding tight to its roots and charm. Rosenberg is proud to be home to the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds and the annual Fort Bend County Fair, one of the largest and most successful county fairs in the state, featuring over 700 livestock exhibits and 4100 competitive exhibits to 200,000 visitors each year.

Historic Downtown District

Rosenberg's Historic Downtown District offers an eclectic shopping experience in buildings restored to their original grandeur. Visitors browse a collection of gift boutiques, antique shops, art galleries, spa, restaurants, and other establishments offering everything from home accessories, collectibles, fine jewelry, clothing, and fine hand made furniture, to great casual dining experiences. The district is home to the 1910 Vogelsang Building, a Texas Historic Landmark, at 1911 Avenue G, and to Another Time Soda Fountain, winner of a 2005 Texas Downtown Association Restoration Award. The district is also home to Bob's Tacos, a favorite for specialty tacos, and Hawkins Furniture, maker of fine handmade furniture. Rosenberg's post office, established in

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1881, is located nearby at 2103 Avenue G. The Historic Downtown District is the site of the city's HOT Summer Concerts, the Christmas in Rosenberg festival, Rosenberg Railroad Festival, and Ride to Rosenberg Car Show. Visitors to the historic district can watch progress on the restoration of the Cole Liberty Theater, a 1919 vaudeville and movie house.

Historically Significant Buildings

1910 Teague-Waddell House, 1810 Avenue M, featuring ornate columns and classical revival details and sitting on Rosenberg's "silk stocking row"; 1824 Trone-Ray-Lane House, 1314 Third Street, located on a 1824 Stephen F. Austin land grant and built as a wedding gift; the 1920s Robinowitz Building, 2012 Avenue G, built by Russian immigrants; and 1912 First Baptist Church, 1117 First Street, who had the first electric lights in town and held baptism services in the Brazos River until the 1930s.

Rosenberg Railroad Museum

Since its grand opening in 2002, the Rosenberg Railroad Museum has amassed a collection of artifacts, maps, photographs, semaphores, wig-wag, and memorabilia detailing the history of the Great Rails in and around Rosenberg and Fort Bend County and their importance to the city's history. Special exhibits include a HO-gauge working model train, and an 1879 business railcar recalling the golden days of train travel. The museum's newest addition, Tower 17, was the last traditional manned railroad-interlocking tower in Texas. Tower 17 closed in February 2004 and was moved a half-mile to the museum grounds. The Museum hosts the annual Railroad Festival the first Saturday each October. A member of the Texas Rail Tourism Alliance, the museum is located at 1921 Avenue F, next to the busy BNSF and UP main lines and in the Historic Downtown District. Open Tues.-Sat. 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm. Special tours by appointment. Admission fee. For information call (281) 633-2846 or visit www.rosenbergrrmuseum.org.

Arts

Located above Vogelsang Antiques at 1911 Avenue G, the CAST Theatrical Company welcomes 62 guests every Friday and Saturday night to the best in live repertory theater performances. For information and tickets call (281) 437-1458.

Events

Popular annual events include the Spring Fling Car Show in April, the City's Family 4th Independence Day Celebration at Seabourne Creek Park on July 4th, the HOT Summer Concerts held Fridays in July in the Historic Downtown District, the ten-day Fort Bend County Fair starting the last weekend in September, the Ride to Rosenberg Car Show and the Rosenberg Railroad Festival in October, and the first Saturday in December is the City's Christmas in Rosenberg festival.

Brazos Bend State Park

Located south of Rosenberg at 21901 FM-762, Brazos Bend State Park is considered the crown jewel of Texas State Parks. The park's 4,897 acres of Gulf Coastal Plain includes Brazos River bottomlands, live-oak woodlands, oxbow lakes and marsh. Abundant park wildlife includes white-tailed deer, coyotes, Bob Cat, Gray Fox, Russian boar, raccoons, migratory waterfowl, over 277 species of resident and migratory birds including Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, American Bittern, Great Horned Owl, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, and on occasion, the Bald Eagle, as well as a large population of American alligators. Park amenities include a Nature Center, Environmental Education Center, amphitheater, 20 miles of hike and bike trails, Creekfield Lake Nature Trail featuring special signage for the visually impaired, wildlife observation platforms, tent and RV camping facilities, picnic sites throughout the park, fishing from lighted piers along Elm Lake, Hale Lake, and 40 Acre Lake, screened shelters, rest rooms, showers, and dump station. Special programming includes a Nature Center Orienteering Course, Thursday Night Hikes, Summer Live Musical Performances, Guided Bird Watching Hikes, Alligator Hatching Exhibit, Tarantula Molting Exhibit, Natural Perl Photo Walks, and Junior Angler Workshops. Leashed pets permitted. Admission fee. For information call (979) 553-5101 or visit www.bbspvo.org.

George Observatory

Located within Brazos Bend State Park, the George Observatory was built as a joint project of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The George Foundation, and the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences. The Observatory, operated by volunteers from area astronomy clubs, consists of three domed telescopes and includes a 36-inch Gueymard Research Telescope, one of the largest telescopes in the nation open to the public on a regular basis. The Gueymard Telescope is open to the public on Saturday evenings and is available by reservation on Friday nights for groups of 30 or more. For information call (979) 553-5101, (409) 553-3400 or visit www.georgeobservatory.org.

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Challenger Learning Center

The George Observatory at Brazos Bend State Park houses the Challenger Learning Center for Space Science Education and takes participants on simulated space missions, complete with mission control, and spacecraft simulator. The Challenger Learning Center is a living memorial to the seven Challenger astronauts who lost their lives in 1986. For information call (713) 639-4629 or visit www.hmns.org.

City Parks

Rosenberg's municipal parklands feature a variety of recreational facilities and include pavilions, picnicking, playgrounds, birding, swimming, tennis, softball, and other sports. The city's largest municipal park, SEABOURNE CREEK PARK, is a 164-acre ecologically rich passive park offering bird watching, 700-ft. boardwalk through the park's wetland, hiking and biking trail, 4-acre lake with fishing piers, the R. W. Lindsey Gazebo, parking, and restrooms. Located at 3827 Texas 36 South, one-half mile off U.S. 59, the park is open daily dawn to dusk. Alcoholic beverages and pets are not permitted in the city's municipal parks. For more information visit www.ci.rosenberg.tx.us or call the Parks and Recreation Department at (832) 595-3939.

Historic Cemetery

Rosenberg Cemetery, formerly known as the Woodmen of the World Cemetery, at Magnolia Street and Avenue D, was established by Rosenberg Camp No. 535. The names of the city's early settlers and leaders can be found among grave markers dating to the 1890s.

Tourist Information

For additional information on city and area attractions, shopping, restaurants, accommodations, and events, visit www.visitrosenberg.com or the Rosenberg-Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce at www.rosrichchamber.com.