

Ellis County Elections Building and Historic Waxahachie, Inc. Receive Statewide Honors from the Texas Downtown Association

Ellis County Elections Building was named the winner of the Best New Construction category, and Historic Waxahachie, Inc. was named Best Downtown Partner of the 2016 Texas Downtown Association (TDA) Presidents Awards Program in the under 50,000 population groups. Winners were announced during the Presidents Awards Gala, held in conjunction with the 2016 Texas Downtown Conference in November in Killeen.

The Best New Construction award recognizes excellent new construction in a downtown or commercial district. The Ellis County Elections Building was selected the winner by judges who appreciated the reuse of building materials from the old blacksmith shop and sheds that previously occupied the site. The judges also appreciated the design, which paid homage to the old structure. "The construction of the Elections Office was a project that was predicated upon preserving the spirit and charm of Waxahachie. Working with ARCHITEXAS, we were able to realize a design that combined architectural elements of the historic Blacksmith Shop. We are proud to have been recognized by the TDA," said Carol Bush,

County Judge.

The Best Downtown Partner award recognizes outstanding partners that support efforts to revitalize downtown. Historic Waxahachie, Inc. shared the honors with the Winnsboro Center for the Arts. Judges appreciated the efforts Historic Waxahachie, Inc. has made since the 1970s for historic preservation in downtown and other parts of the city.

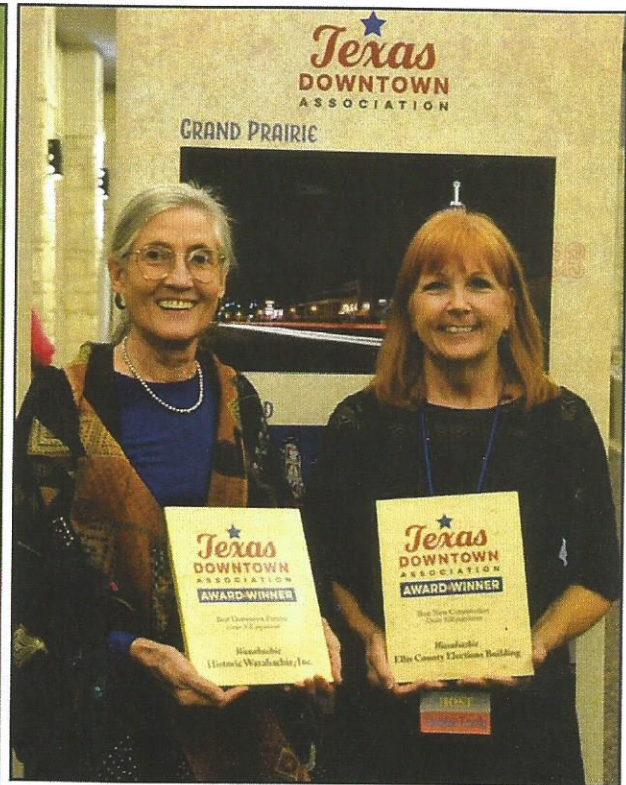
Judging for the awards took place on Friday, September 16, in Austin. The jury panel included the following representatives: Courtney Hoffman, CRH Capitol Communications; Richard Kooris, Pegalo Properties, Inc.; Sarah Page, Texas Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus; and Rachael Pitts, Texas Municipal League.

The Texas Downtown Association, established in 1985, is an independent, statewide nonprofit organization comprised of over 400 members involved in downtown and commercial district revitalization projects. TDA provides resources to members through networking opportunities, marketing, education and advocacy to achieve community goals. To learn more, please visit www.texasdowntown.org.

SAFETY is the best present!

With the holidays upon us, unfortunately that also sometimes means an increase in thefts. Follow these tips from the Waxahachie Police Department to help protect yourself.

1. Don't leave valuables in plain sight.
2. Lock your car.
3. Park in lighted areas.
4. Do not give out information on social media about going out of town or to events – that tells everyone that you won't be home.
5. When out shopping, be aware of your surroundings. Be aware of people loitering in the area. Have your keys out and ready to use.
6. Pay attention when you are walking out to your car. Don't be on the cell phone, texting, etc.
7. When not at home, have your lights on timers and don't leave drapes or blinds open, showcasing your Christmas tree and all the presents under it.
8. When disposing of boxes after Christmas, try not to leave boxes out where they show what you just got for Christmas. (TVs, electronics, etc.)



Nancy Post of Historic Waxahachie, Inc., and Anita Brown, Downtown Development Director, attended the Texas Downtown Association Presidents Awards Gala, accepting the awards for Best Downtown Partner (Historic Waxahachie, Inc.) and Best New Construction (Ellis County Elections Building). The Gala was held at the Texas Downtown Conference in Killeen in November.