League City Historical Society
P.O. Box 1642 League City, Texas 77574
281-554-2994
leaguecityhistory.org

April 2011 Newsletter  Kathie Nenninger Editor knenninger@verizon.net

April 28th Meeting at 5:00pm

League City Historical Society will be receiving the Historic Preservation Recognition Award from the Sam Houston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) in recognition of their continued efforts for historical preservation.

PLEASE NOTE – We are moving our regularly scheduled April 28th meeting time up to 5 pm at the School House Museum.

The Society will be recognized at the meeting by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for their preservation efforts. The Regent of the Sam Houston Chapter will be presenting the award so please try to attend. We will adjourn the meeting before 6 pm to allow all of those who are so inclined to attend the Candidates Forum hosted by the League City Chamber of Commerce at the Johnny Arolfo Civic Center Candidates for League City Mayor and Council Position #2. They will discuss their visions for the City of League City.

If you missed the March meeting, I’ve got to tell you it was very interesting with Larry Mink portraying a Medical Officer during the Civil War. It’s no wonder so many died during this war. Medicine was still very primitive.

April 13th a group of Society members and friends gathered at the home of Doug and Charlene McKee for a presentation of the League City Historical Society Landmark Designation Medallion Plaque for their home. Known as the McKee-Giessler Home, it was built in 1898. George H. Giessler arrived in this country in October 1853 via boat from Bremen, Germany when he was seven years old. This wonderful home has been tenderly restored first by Doug’s parents after they purchased it in 1951 and more recently by Doug and Charlene. A complete report on the presentation can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Ronnie Richards

from the president…

Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>LCHS Meeting at 5:00pm</td>
<td>West Bay Common School Children’s Museum 210 Kansas Street, League City</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Nick Cimino</td>
<td>L.C. Italian House Museum at Butler’s Courtyard</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
<td>Megan Lickliter-Mundoon</td>
<td>Amelia Earhart Archeological dig in the South Pacific</td>
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We thank Deborah Gammon and Melody Hauch for this month’s refreshments.
The League City Landmark designation is awarded to structures and sites over 60 years of age deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural and/or historical associations. In reviewing applications for this designation, the Landmark Committee of the Historical Society considers not only the historical persons or events associated with the site or structure, but also the architectural integrity of the building. Ideally, the structure should maintain much of its original appearance and should be an exemplary model of preservation. To date 34 Medallion Plaques have been presented to mark structures that meet these requirements. You can learn more about this program at http://leaguecityhistory.org/medallion.php.

Meeting Minutes
Diane Kerkhove

MARCH 31 MEETING
President Ronnie Richards introduced Larry Mink, our speaker. Larry had copies distributed on “Regulations of Field Hospital No. 1” and “The Medical Aspects of the Civil War.” Larry talked about medical training, uniforms, purveyors and battles. A surgeon wore a green sash for formal occasions. Larry showed his collection of medical supplies.

Catherine announced that students will give reports on history at the Open House on April 16.

In May, the American Association of Museums is meeting at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Our museum is sponsoring a booth.

In June, Catherine and Richard will attend the County Association of Museums in the New Jersey area.

In April, the DAR will present the Historical Society with the NSDAR Historic Preservation Recognition Award. A LCHS Medallion Award will be given to the Doug and Charlene McKee home.

On May 26, there will be an Italian night at the Butler Courtyard.

On May 28, workers are needed to help put out flags for veterans at the cemetery.

The months seem to be flying by so I must be getting older. March highlights include school tours from Katy, Houston, Webster, Sugarland, Fred and Missouri City. They brought 163 students, 51 parents, 9 teachers and 55 walk-in visitors. We brought in $2522.25 in donations, program fees and gift shop sales. Our Webinar Training event was postponed until sometime in May.

I do want to mention that we held our second successful Open House Event on Saturday, April 16th and once again it was a delightful event. More than 75 people came to enjoy the fourth graders from Bay and White Elementary Schools give Immigrant Speeches in the schoolhouse while we had local craftsman share their talents in the school yard and in the Museum. The students did a wonderful job preparing for their speeches and we have included some of their pictures. We want to thank Sherry Frankovich, quilter; Mike Conwell, Leather Maker; John Dupla, Branding, J’Nean Henderson, The Victorian Lady and Hat Maker; and Richard Lewis, rope maker. The visitors took home crafts at each station that they had made and learned a lot about each of these talents. Plans are in the making to expand this event and hopefully attract even more visitors.
We want to thank Kathie Nenninger, Pam Kinser and Bettie Moss for their continued dedication to our flower beds. We are delighted with how beautiful they are making the schoolyard and really appreciate how hard they work. I am glad they have green thumbs since mine is usually a brown one. Thank you for your time and energy.

We are planning a “Work Day” on May 14th starting at 9am. We can use your help. You will need work gloves and lots of energy. We will be washing windows, cleaning out the back of the outhouse, moving mounds of dirt, and cleaning out the storage shed. If you have wheelbarrows, shovels and a pick-up truck that we could use to move the dirt to a near-by cemetery, please let me know. The cemetery needs the dirt to raise sinking stones. Please save the date. We could use your help. Call and let me know you are coming.

We also continue to work behind the scenes on photographing the collection, planning upcoming exhibits and maintaining the daily operations of the museum. The gift shop continues to bring in extra funding and much time is spent restocking and bookkeeping. Our volunteer staff needs restocking also, so if you have extra time to share we could use your help one to three hours a week or month. We enjoy the company and the extra hands make our work load faster.

Summer is just around the corner and the annual Teddy Bear Parade is scheduled for July 4th. Spread the news to your friends and plan to attend. Contact Doug McKee if you would like to help with this event.

Our Living History Dinner is set for October 6th at Butler’s Courtyard. Our speaker will be announced soon. We are now looking for donation items to put in the silent auction. We are also looking for sponsors of the event. If you know of someone that may be interested, please contact Catharin at the museum. If you have an item to donate, please bring these to the Museum. If you would like to help, contact me also.

Plans for the fall include the annual Ghosts of the Past Tour where the “Blue and Gray” will be the theme. Save October 29th and plan to come. We have ghosts, we just need visitors!

A bronze Historic Medallion was awarded to Charlene and Doug McKee on April 13 for their beautifully restored home at 1004 Third St. Our president, Ronnie Richards, presented them with the medallion in recognition of the outstanding restoration work they have done on the McKee-Giessler home.

Built in 1898 by George H. Giessler, a cattle rancher and meat market owner, the home has seen a lot of changes in its 113 years. During the 1900 hurricane, Giessler’s wife and daughters huddled in an inside corner of the kitchen while he was out checking on the cattle, his meat markets, and the community. Meanwhile, his family spent several agonizing days in their home, waiting and hoping he would return.

George passed away in 1923, and his wife sold the property. During the Great Depression it was turned into a duplex. In 1951, Doug McKee’s father, H. A. McKee purchased the property, and turned it back into a single family residence.

Doug and Charlene bought it in 1983, and lovingly began the ongoing task of restoring it. They undertook major projects in 1988, 1999 and 2009, and their home was a highlight of our Annual Christmas Homes Tour in 2010.
The League City Historical Society has reserved Butler’s Courtyard for the evening of May 26 for a special meeting of the Historical Society focused on restoration of the Ghirardi House in Heritage Park. The meeting will start at 6:30 to allow time for socializing and to enjoy a potluck assortment of food, snacks and desserts. Nick Cimino will make a presentation on efforts to preserve the Ghirardi House as a museum devoted to the history of the Italian families of the Galveston Bay area including League City, Dickinson and beyond. The Italian families are being invited to prepare food, write stories and make posters of their Italian heritage to display at the meeting. These stories and posters will be used as interpretive materials for special events and ultimately for display in the new museum.

Right after Easter, we must finish our spring gardening project at the schoolhouse. Kathie Nenninger and Pam Kinser have already planted some red pentas and a few blue ageratums in front of the schoolhouse to make things look good for the open house we had on Saturday. Alecya Gallaway has given us some red oxblood lilies (commonly called schoonhouse lilies as seen above) which we will plant soon for blooming in the fall. We will also add some yellow black-eyed susans and additional Persian shield, both of which Bettie Moss is rooting at her house. In addition, we will install the hoses and timers for an automatic watering system there. We need the help of about ten or twelve of you to complete these tasks. You may choose what you’d like to do. We can do this in one or two mornings with your help. The first work date will be on Saturday, May 7th at 9:00 a.m. All of you who can help for a couple of hours, please call or email Bettie Moss (281-334-7805 or bettie@texasmoss.com) within the next few days. If we need another few hours to complete everything, we’ll talk about it then. When we finish, we’ll have a beautiful splash of primary colors for all our schoolchildren visitors and the public. We hope you’ll want to help us make the schoolhouse grounds look beautiful! Thank you so much.

A request to remodel the front façade of a building at 615 E. Main Street was tabled until the next regular meeting. A discussion of the utilization of projecting signs within the Historic District was tabled to allow staff more time to prepare sign renderings for presentation at the next meeting. Commission conditionally approved a request to change the exterior paint color of the trim on an existing building at 1011 E. Main until the applicant submits a paint color chip to match the National Trust for Historic Preservation color selections.

Administrative Approvals for February:
Operations Permit for Centerpoint Church at 105 E. Main Street, Suite 100
Operations Permit for a business (Mrs.Gattis) at 812 E. Main Street. The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled April 21, 2011 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers at 200 West Walker Street.
2011 League City Historical Society

Dues Form

Dues for various types of memberships are as listed below.

Choose the membership level that is best for you. Complete the form below and mail it with your check to:

Mail to: League City Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1642
League City, Texas 77574

- $25 Single Membership
- $40 Family Membership
- $15 Senior Citizen Membership (65 years old and older)
- $50 Organization Membership
- $250 Life Membership

Note: If you have paid your dues in October 2010 or later, you are current for the year 2011.

Please update your membership information.

Name__________________________________________________________________________
(If Family Membership, please include names of family members.)

Address ________________________________________________________________

City__________________________________________State________________Zip___________

Phone: Home Phone_______________________________ Cell Phone: _____________________

e-mail address __________________________________________________________________

☐ Check if your name, address or e-mail has changed recently.

☐ Check if you would like to receive your newsletter, meeting minutes and/or meeting notices by e-mail, to help save on postage.