August 28, 2008 Meeting

We want you!

Get a preview of all our exciting Fall events on our regular meeting night, Thursday the 28th! Plus a fun surprise as well!!

Calendar

August 28, 2008: LCHS Meeting
Program: Fall Preview and Surprise!
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 Kansas, League City
Refreshments 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm

October 9, 2008: Living History Dinner
October 25, 2008: Ghosts of the Past:
The Greatest Generation

December 13, 2008: Historical Homes Tour

from the president...

Fall is in the air! Though you can’t tell from the temperature, you can tell by the difference in activities: school preparations and the filing away of summer-2008 memories.

Our Society schedule for fall is just brimming with fun stuff to do, from working in our booth in League Park to a fancy-dress Living History Dinner to taking a tour down memory lane to Fairview Cemetery for Ghosts of the Past to viewing five Historic homes in Holiday trim. This is the first time in years we have hosted the Historic Holiday Homes Tour, having been given it back by the Heritage Foundation.

Everything on the calendar this fall is an activity for the whole of League City, not just our Society alone. Everyone will see what an alive and viable group we are, and that we do really fun things, keeping League City’s History alive!

There’s fun for everyone, so mix it up and sign up for everything. You are all needed to make all of these projects come together and be successful.

We continue to add accomplishments to our 2008 list. By the time of the September meeting, we will have a new parking area along the Second Street side of the Building.

The result of our Bylaws revision committee, under the leadership of Tommy Frankovich, is being brought to the Board this month for approval or more work, and will be effective by the first of the year.

Mr. Bob Douglas of Johnson Development, who was part of our program in June, is donating some help for the artifacts storage expansion that is in the works. We are holding our breath on this one, as his company’s donation is a BIG DEAL.

Thursday’s meeting will be the Fall Preview meeting, and will include a big surprise, so please don’t miss it!

Joanna Sharp
May 29, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Sherry Frankovich

Joanna Sharp, the president, opened the meeting at 7 P.M. with 22 members attending. She introduced the speaker, Tony Allender, who is the City Director of Land Management. He is overseeing the re-development of Main Street. There will be 6-8 months of planning, plus workshops of citizens. A committee of citizens has been formed. Bob Douglas, President of LC Chamber of Commerce, spoke next. He expressed several ideas, such as improving traffic, landscaping I-45 at 518, signage for LC Historical District, and sprucing up LC exit off of I-45.

Joanna Sharp began the business meeting with the approval of secretarial minutes of last meeting. Diane Dornak made a motion to approve the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Deborah Gammon seconded it and it passed unanimously.

Diane Gillette gave the Finance/Grants Committee report. They are identifying more grants to go after.

Catharin Lewis pointed out that the museum report was printed in the newsletter.

Tommy Frankovich said that By-Laws committee was ready to meet and make decisions.

Deborah Gammon was recognized for receiving an award from the United Daughters of Confederacy. The award was for printing the book, the Veterans of the Civil War that are buried at Fairview Cemetery. They, also, commended her for her research about the veterans of the Confederacy.

No meeting is scheduled for July.

MusNews

Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

The summer has literally flown by me. It began with wonderful trip to Miami University in Ohio for the Annual Schoolhouse Conference where we shared our experiences with others and visited the McGuffey House, where William Holmes McGuffey compiled the first edition of the McGuffey Eclectic Readers in 1836 that became the basic readers in thirty-seven states after the Civil War. After two days of classes from speakers around the world, we visited several brick schoolhouses, all being used for different purposes which made it very interesting.

The Hughes Schoolhouse of 1876 is museum run by a Historical Society and is being used for school groups with a program similar to our program. The next schoolhouse, that sits up on, a hill is presently under restoration and they are months away from opening as a Museum.

The next schoolhouse sits across the street from a church that now owns it and the downstairs has been converted into a fellowship hall and large kitchen, but as you can see in the picture, the upstairs is still the schoolhouse gym.

We ate lunch in the next schoolhouse, now used as Westside Pizza. The last schoolhouse is now a local fire station with offices in the front and trucks in the addition on the back.

Once back in Texas, I began work on the Museum Cemetery Collection. Working with Paula Tanner and other volunteers, we have been compiling all the information into the computer, inventorying the cemetery, and organizing the paperwork. This has been many long hours both day and night and we are making progress. There is still much research to be done to finalize some of the details.

We continue to work on the main collection, digitizing the photos, cleaning the artifacts and making repairs when necessary. Since we are limited with space, we are constantly reorganizing to make room for new additions. We send many thanks to Dennis and Judy Ruhl for their donation of Lawrence and Broom Company papers. We are making progress in entering the information into our system. We also want to thank NCAD for the books, framed pictures and papers to add to our collection. We send many thanks to Amegy Bank for their collection of photos, certificates and newspaper clippings. Much of this is still being processed into the system. We also want to thank John and Cindy Kmetz for their most recent donation of a school desk with flip top and seat attached.
This summer we held twelve schoolhouse sessions with groups from Humble, Pearland, Houston, Pasadena, Friendswood, LaPorte, Beaumont and Magnolia. Walk-in visitors came from Baytown, Katy, Waller, League City, Colorado and England. We had more than 300 visitors. Classes are beginning to register for fall and spring sessions at the schoolhouse. We look forward to another busy year.

We are planning our Museum fall exhibits and events and hope to have information ready for the website soon. We will be having the Annual Teddy Bear Parade with this year’s theme, “Your Imagination on Parade”. We look forward to the children’s parade of bicycles, wagons and tricycles down Second Street to Butler’s Courtyard once again.

Richard Lewis LCHS Property Committee

As you may know, we are in the process of constructing an addition to the Museum to house our growing collection of artifacts. The Museum has a pile of small twigs, sticks and branches that have been gathered from storms over the last year. We need help in disposing of this debris before construction starts on this side of the building. These sticks can be used for firewood (kindling) or mulch (if you have a mulcher) or can be disposed of as trash. This is where you come in. If you have any tools (pruning sheers, nippers, chain saw, mulcher, etc) or just a plain old human body, we need your help. This needs to be done in the next few weeks due to the imminent construction. If you can help, please call me at 832-741-2680.

A Special Welcome to Our New Members
Sharon Brown, Marilyn Edelin, Mary Elizabeth Flescher Fleming, Peter Guglielmo, and John Dupla

Photo of the clearing that needs to be done before construction

THE GREATEST GENERATION

GHOSTS OF THE PAST TOUR
OCTOBER 25, 2008

Deborah C. Gammon, Chairman
THE ATKINSON FAMILY

The Atkinson family resided at 803 2nd St. in League City. The patriarch of the family was John Paxton Atkinson, the son of Judge Edward S. and Annette Russell Atkinson of Alvin. J. P. Atkinson assisted in the organization of the Citizens State Bank of League City. He then became a bank examiner. Mr. Atkinson worked for Humble Pipe Line Co. He and his wife, Ava King daughter of Octavius and Flora Parker King were very active in the community. Mrs. Atkinson worked for the Red Cross in the Great War (WWI).

They had two daughters, Carolina and Flora Annette Atkinson. Carolina enlisted in the U.S. Army first. She enlisted as soon as the announcement was made that the Army was organizing a branch for women to replace the men that were being sent to the front in World War II. The branch was first known as the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps. Later the word auxiliary was removed and we know these ladies as WACS. Caroline worked at Humble Oil when she enlisted and was able to return to her job after the war making her the first woman to receive military leave. Caroline reached the rank of Major. Caroline met another Army officer while stationed in Washington D.C., Charles d’Etchegoyen. They were married and the couple returned to League City after their military careers ended.

Flora enlisted in May of 1943 and spent some of her military career in the Philippines. When Flora returned from the war she became a teacher in the Houston Independent School District.

Through the research done for the Ghosts of the Past Tour, a tombstone was ordered for Caroline and should be in place before the tour. The marker is courtesy of the Veterans Administration. If you have a deceased veteran without a marker, you, too, can obtain a marker for him or her through the Veterans Administration. Log onto <www.cem.va.gov> to check for eligibility for a headstone or marker. You will need the veteran’s DD214 or separation papers to prove eligibility.

Join us October 25 from 1 p.m to 5 p.m. for the Ghosts of the Past.

From The Finance and Grant Chairman...

Diane Gillette

The Finance and Grant Committee is back at work composing grant requests with assistance from SSCI. One request has been granted and three requests are close to being finalized and mailed. The committee is scheduled to meet again on Monday, August 18.
The Holiday Home Tour Committee will announce the list of homes and sites that will be on the Saturday, December 13 tour at the August 28 LCHS Meeting.

The League City Historical Society

Announces its 4th Annual

Living History Dinner

“An Evening with Stephen F. Austin”

Butler’s Courtyard

122 Michigan Avenue
League City, Texas
Thursday, October 9, 2008
6:00 Social
7:00 Dinner

Come and meet Stephen F. Austin portrayed by Bob Heilman, founder Texas Heroes, a professional group of historians/actors who portray heroes and heroines of Texas in the first person. Bob first portrayed Stephen F. Austin in 1995, at the request of the Texas State Historical Association in honor of Austin’s 200th birthday.

$50 per person
Call 281-557-3861 for Reservations
Proceeds benefit the League City Historical Society

League City Historic District Commission Report to the League City Historical Society

Fay Dudney
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC


- Commission members approved an Operations Permit for a new business, Avo’s Café at 1026 East Main St., Suite 104.
- Approved 4 house elevations at The Township (Kansas and Clear Creek) with the condition that windows in keeping with the pre 1940’s era be added to the garage doors.
- Waived a request for the materials to be used on a sign at 216 Michigan Ave.

June 19, 2008

- A Certificate of Appropriateness Request to alter (paint had been applied before the request was submitted) the exterior of a building at 216 Michigan Ave was approved.
- Mark Linenschmidt, City Staff Liaison to the Historic District commission presented a “Scope of Work” proposed for the FM 518 Main Street Corridor Project. He reported that the Architectural and Materials List would be reviewed to determine how the list would be included in the project and the proposed revisions to the Comprehensive Plan. The complete project plan is to be made by November 2008.
- Plans to alter the exterior of a building at 902-908 East Main were approved.

May 15, 2008

- Carpets Plus Colortile was permitted to begin operations at 905 E. Main Street.
- A sign permit request at 1015A Michigan Ave. was approved.
- The zoning designation of a residence at 822 Lewis Street was incorrectly reported as being Residential Neighborhood Conservation Overlay. The correct zoning designation is Residential Neighborhood Commercial Conservation Overlay.
- Administrative Approval for a Certificate of Appropriateness was granted to the Butler Longhorn Museum at 1220 Coryell Street
- A Sign Permit and Operations Permit were approved for a business at 1015 E. Main Street.