August 2011 Newsletter
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August 25, 2011 Meeting

League City Historical Society is going on a field trip!

Dr. Terry Williams has graciously invited members of the LCHS to his car barn to view his vast collection of antique and vintage vehicles. The map and driving instructions to his home follows:

Take FM 270 South to Austin Street, turn left and look for large driveway on the right. Follow LCHS signs from FM 270 to the meeting location.

We thank Joanna Dawson and Mike Conwell for this month’s refreshments

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

The City of League City continues to actively work through various committees and with grants to put emphasis on the Historic District as the heart of our city. One project under consideration by the City is the retention of a contract firm to create, promote and support public events. While it would not affect League City Historical Society events it would potentially create new events or enhance currently planned events such as ours by bringing more people out. I am serving on this Committee that is researching the option of retaining a contractor for event planning and I’m keeping a close eye on the impact any scheduled events would have on the Society and of course the Historic District.

I’ve also been recently contacted by the Historic Shoppes, a loosely formed group of merchants in the Historic District that have banned together to advertise. To my knowledge this is the first time such an effort on this scale has been undertaken. We want to encourage all of our members to “Shop League City” first but in particular patronize our Historic District businesses.

Our next program, set for Thursday, August 25, should be quite interesting. It will be hosted at Dr. Terry Williams’ home which includes the site of his barn housing a large collection of antique and vintage vehicles. Dr. Williams coincidentally is my Dermatologist and I had heard he was into cars but I’ve never seen his collection. More information can be found in this newsletter about how to get to the meeting location.

On a final note, there is much activity starting up for the Living History Dinner chaired by our none other than Catharin Lewis and the Historic Homes Tour co-chaired by Diana Dornak and my wife Nancy. As a matter of fact
I've already gotten the first silent auction item for the Living History Dinner in the form of a free front end alignment and wheel balance courtesy of Bensons Wheel and Tire in Webster. Bob Jacobson who owns this business along with partner Peyton Benson is the late Marge Jacobson’s son and a supporter of the event every year. Now is the time to start working on the silent auction donations because the dinner set for October 6th at Butler’s Courtyard. It will sell out so don’t put off buying your tickets once your invitation arrives. For more information call Catharin at 281-554-2994.

At the American Association of Museums Annual Conference in Houston, Catharin and Richard had a booth. There they received 1200 gloves from Fed Ex for the students and workers at our museum.

The speaker was introduced by Richard, Megan Lickliter-Munden, who spoke about the TIGHAR’s 10th expedition to Nikumaroro. The group excavated and studied animal life, artifacts and life on the island where Amelia Earhart crashed in 1937.

Kathy Weisskopf reported that a consideration is being made to move a large tree in the city.

Ernie Randall reported that a docent group wants to come to League City to study the cemetery’s physical features.

Next meeting will be in August.

At the LCHS Meeting on August 25, Dr. Terry Williams’ Car Collection was featured. See map on page 1 for directions.

6:45pm social 7:00pm meeting

- **August 25**  Dr. Terry Williams’ Car Collection
- **See map on page 1 for directions**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Diane Kerkhove**

**LCHS JUNE 30 MEETING**

At the June 30 meeting, Catharin Lewis reported that classes have been taking place at the museum.

The Teddy Bear Parade will start at the Museum and go to Butler’s Courtyard on July 4.

Donated items for fundraising will be needed for the Living History Dinner in October. The entertainment will be a portrayal of Robert E. Lee.

The Cemetery Tour will be October 29.

Richard and Catharin Lewis attended annual conference for the Country School Association of America in New Jersey.

Hot and dry are the key words this summer. In spite of the unbearable weather, the school flower beds are receiving many compliments from our visitors, especially about the pretty purple plants. Many thanks again to Betty Moss and her group of volunteers who are keeping the flower beds prettier than the last eighteen years of being open as a museum.

Hot it is for my teaching staff also that has had to be in period costume for the fourteen scheduled classes for the months of July and August. We have had three groups from Pearland, two each from Lake Jackson and Pasadena, one each from LaPorte and Houston, and five from League City with 321 class participants and 57 walk-in visitors bringing a total of 378 visitors. We give special thanks to our teachers for their support in the schoolhouse program during these hot months. We are now scheduling fall classes.

We want to thank Catherine Gill for her recent donations of a Dazey Churn, the book entitled The Student’s Series of English Classics, and five booklets entitled Toys, Games & Activities for the One Room Schoolhouse, Sterling’s Primary Series of Penmanship, The Graphic System of Penmanship, Greene’s Graded Grammar Blanks, and Ellsworth Writing Book. These are wonderful items to add to our collection and will be enjoyed by all. We also want to thank Kathy Esquivel for her recent donation of a Royal Typewriter, a parasol, a black & white aerial print of early League City and two small prayer books. These items are much appreciated to be added to the collection.

Our summer intern, Alan Yang did a wonderful job working on the bookkeeping records, improved the gift shop inventory spreadsheet and volunteered as a docent for walk-in visitors as well as helped with the Teddy Bear Parade. He is now in Singapore for his year abroad of college class work. We wish him well and safe in all his endeavors.

In September, the Museum will be open on Saturday from 10 – 4 for a “Meet the Artist and Book Signing” Event. These are very special children’s books and children will have a “hands-on” activity when they come. Watch for more details. Also the gift shop will be having a “Stroll with the Scarecrow’s Sale”. This is a special event with other area shops. Each store will be placing a “scarecrow” outside their shops and the scarecrows will be judged. Winners will be announced at the Oak Tree Festival on October 2nd. The special sale is scheduled for Thursday – Saturday, September 22 – 24th, 2011. The Museum Gift Shop will be open special hours for this fall sale. The hours are as follows: Thursday & Friday 9 – 8 pm and Saturday 10 – 4pm. I will be needing volunteers to help with this. If you can volunteer an hour or two on any of these days so I can get a lunch or dinner break I would appreciate it. We will be having gift shop training on September 15th from 9 - noon to prepare for this event. Please call if you can help with this event.

Fall exhibit plans are in progress centering on the civil war to tie in with the Annual Ghost Tour, “The Blue & Gray of League City”, scheduled for Saturday October 29th. The museum will be open that Saturday from 10 – 5 for exhibit tours. The Ghost Tours are scheduled from 1 – 5 only. The 1st Texas Volunteer Infantry will be encamped in the school yard and will welcome visitors all day. A Blacksmith, Leather Worker, a Civil War Medical Doctor & his Nurse will set up temporary quarters in the schoolhouse, a spinner and the Victorian Lady will be in the Barn Museum with other special civil war exhibits. We will be asking for food item donations for our workers. Watch for more details in next month’s newsletter.

A Special Welcome to Our New Member
Mary A. Walter

Come Meet the Artist
September 24, 2011

Nathan Jensen has illustrated over six children’s books with more to come. Growing up in Austin, Texas he received his BFA in art and architecture at the University of Texas. The father of two boys, his illustrations have appeared in local, statewide and national publications and his paintings have been represented by galleries in Austin and New York.

Nathan is the juggler of an array of artistic pursuits. He garnered attention for his murals decorating everything from a 60 foot feed mill tower to an elementary school gym. Working primarily in oils, his paintings are on large 3-dimensional canvases. He illustrates for magazines and newspapers. He has animated for television and feature films. He is a web designer and a children’s book illustrator. By far, the pursuit of being a children’s book illustrator is Jensen’s favorite. The work is an enjoyable puzzle and process for him. It’s a chance to be softer. The post production pleasure of meeting children who enjoy his books takes him even higher. Jensen served as illustrator for Author Conrad J. Storad’s books which include: Don’t Ever Cross that Road – An Armadillo Story, Life in the Slow Lane – A Desert Tortoise Tale, and A Desert Night Shift – A Packrat Story, Rattlesnake Rules, A Train Story and the newest book, Bighorn Sheep.

Save the date and take this unique opportunity to learn about the process an illustrator follows to create a picture book! It will be a “hands-on” enjoyable event for children of all ages.
July 21, 2011
The owners of an existing storage building at 1020 2nd Street received approval to renovate the structure, using siding and roofing materials that match the primary building on the property. The roof pitch would be raised, but not exceed the pitch of the primary building.

Ongoing construction of the addition of a carport attached to a residence at 505 N. Illinois Avenue was approved by the Commission.

A Certificate of Appropriateness was granted to enclose an existing attached garage and to add on to the rear of an existing residence at 1023 4th Street. Windows that match existing windows on the exterior of the residence will be added to the enclosed garage. The addition at the rear of the house will not be visible from the street.

Administrative Approvals from June included the following:

- Repainting a building at 1015 E. Main Street (Mooi Mi).
- Operations permits for businesses at 804 E. Main Street (A&H Glass Co.),
- 1015 E. Main Street, Ste C (Sabrina’s Sweet Suite),
- 601 E. Main Street (Bachuas Wine Bar),
- Permit for a temporary Banner permit at 601 E. Main Street (Bachuas Wine Bar).
- Mr. Morrison has scheduled a Training Session for commission members during the regular monthly meeting, September 15, 2011.

The Oak Tree Festival will be held at League Park on Saturday, Oct 1 from 10am-6pm. and on Sunday, Oct 2 from 10am-5pm. Our LCHS Festival Coordinator, Jeff Hansen, will be passing around the sign-up sheet at the August meeting. Anyone who is interested can help man the booth for a two hour shift. It’s a great way to help the club and also see the Festival. It is also an excellent opportunity for new members to get more involved in the club. It is always fun helping in booth and no experience is ever required. Be sure to make this meeting.

Ghosts of the Past...

Come meet our Ghosts

October 29, 2011
Ghost Tour

Living History Dinner

October 6, 2011 at Butler’s Courtyard

The sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Civil War is upon us.

Come and eat with General Robert E. Lee

No experience is ever required.