from the president...

Wow, the cool weather is here and the air is getting crisper!

I just can’t wait to give the report this month, because everything’s “coming up roses,” as the old song said.

Please let me tell about all of the petals on that rose.

The Living History Dinner, having just passed, was a huge success. Ronnie Richards was the Chairman, and was greatly assisted by Diana Dornak for the Silent Auction, Catharin Lewis for the program, and Joanna Sharp for the invitations and reservations. Seventy-two members, spouses, and friends enjoyed the food, fun, and fellowship. We cleared almost $6700! It does take a village to get it done, and we all had fun and forgot about Ike for a while!

The booth at the rescheduled Oak Tree Festival cleared more than $200, thanks to Lloyd Medsgers’ hand-grown Butler Oaks saplings. Thank you, Lloyd, Jeff, Ernie, and all of you who manned the booth for two days. Good job!

Our 2008 yearbooks are out, so if you haven’t already picked yours up, please go by the Museum for your copy. They are just beautiful this year.

As a Society and a facility, we were very lucky not to have Ike damage. The only fatality was that the Ghosts of the Past was been postponed until spring because the Cemetery is not up-to-snuff yet from IKE. The City did enlarge the turning radius at the end of Kansas and make a small parking area on the east side on City land that may be used for events in the Cemetery.

Things are moving along on the expansion of the artifacts storage addition. This week I met with Bob Douglas, of Johnson Development, Tim Patak, of Patak Construction, and Richard and Catharin, on site. Bob knew an engineer, Shelmark of Texas City who donated his services for the drawings. Tim will donate his services and tell us just what we need, and we are going to go with our hand out to get what we need donated!!
Talking about a donation, Contech has donated the drainage pipe that we need for creating the new parking on Second Street, which saved the Society about $2000. Of course, Jack Murphy, the city engineer gets the credits for getting the pipe donated, and we thank both of them very much. For this donation to be official, the donor and the City had passed a resolution stating that they were in partnership, which was read at the last Council meeting. Hopefully the installation will be done in November.

Our program for October is one you will not want to miss! Alice Jones was recommended to us by Deborah Gammon and Melodey Hauch as being awesome! Alice will tell us some fascinating stories about WWII and Code Talkers. We’re really looking forward to Alice! In November, we will be honored to have Robert Bauer with us to talk about old League City from his boyhood. Robert was born here and lived here all his life, so he has many stories to share. We are hoping to have Donald Bauer from Fredericksburg join him that night, but we will have more to tell you next month.

We have another booth coming up the first weekend in December in Holiday in the Park, and Jeff Hansen will be chasing you to sign up for a volunteer time slot. This is always a lot of fun because of the holiday spirit! Lastly, we will be doing a Historic Homes Holiday Tour on December 13th. Advance tickets will be $12.00. This event will take the help of many members to be a success, so when you are asked, please say yes! There has already been a lot of advance publicity, and Diana Dornak has been working with her committee for about three months already.

Whew! Isn’t it wonderful! Thank you to every one of you who do so much to Help!

See you next week.  

Joanna Sharp

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**LCHS 2008 Yearbook**  
Kathy Weisskopf, Chairman

Our yearbooks are full of handy information! In addition to giving phone numbers and addresses of all our members, they have contact information for many historical and genealogy organizations, museums and libraries in the Clear Lake and Galveston County areas. If you have not gotten your copy yet, pick one up at our next meeting! Please thank our advertisers when you go into their businesses. Thanks to their generosity, and the wonderful sales efforts of Carole Ragland and Joanna Sharp, we made $2200 on our yearbook this year!

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**September 25, 2008 Meeting Minutes**  
Sherry Frankovich

Joanna Sharp began the meeting at 7 P.M. with 15 members present. She introduced Caris Brown, who is the Reference Librarian at Helen Hall Library. She told us about the books and photographs and yearbooks documenting League City history. These are located in the Local History Room.

Joanna Sharp began the Business section of the meeting. Secretarial minutes of the last meeting were printed in the newsletter. Diana Dornak made a motion to approve those minutes. Ronnie Richards seconded it and the vote was unanimous.

Catharin Lewis gave the Museum report. She told us about preparing for Hurricane Ike and the clean up afterward. There was no damage to the Museum buildings, only tree limbs down.

We voted to approve the By-Laws Revision for the second time. Vote was unanimous to adopt the 2008 By-Laws.

We elected the Nominating Committee, which will nominate the officers for our board this year. Richard Lewis, Doris Teets, and Sherry Frankovich volunteered to serve.

Joanna Sharp told about the upcoming events. Oak Tree Festival has been rescheduled for October 4-5. Living History Dinner is on October 9 at 6:30 at the Butler’s Courtyard. Ghosts of the Past will be rescheduled for the spring.

Members can get your Yearbook at the Museum. We adjourned at 8 P.M.

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**LCHS Officers & Board**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joanna Sharp</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Ronnie Richards</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
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<td>Diana Dornak</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Sherry Frankovich</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Deborah Gammon</td>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
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<td>Jeff Hansen</td>
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<td>Diane Gillette</td>
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<td>Richard Lewis</td>
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<td>Carole Ragland</td>
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<td>Kathy Weisskopf</td>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catharin Lewis</td>
<td>Museum Director</td>
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Our hearts and prayers go out to all those who suffered through Hurricane Ike. It was quite an experience that we hope is not repeated too soon for anyone. We didn’t get a MusNews in the newsletter last month, because we were busy boarding up and preparing for Hurricane Ike. It came and then three weeks of even more exhausting work followed in the clean up. I cannot begin to thank Richard enough for all his time and work to help me.

I have included only a few photos of before and after the storm in this report. When more things get back to normal, I am making a collection of photos of Hurricane Ike for a future exhibit. Anyone who wishes to add theirs to the Museum Collection and this piece of League City’s History please bring your copies to the Museum.

The pictures above are some of what was done inside the building to prepare for Ike. We moved and raised many items and then covered everything. The plastic was not taped in these pictures, but we ran out of time with only a two-day notice and so much to do at home also. Fortunately, the Museum faired well in the storm. No water entered the building and only tree debris was the major loss. We lost two trees to the storm and the shade of the big elm and broken limbs of others. Most work concerning clean up has been completed, but we still have a few broken or bent limbs to be trimmed from the trees. Inside the buildings, most has been put back to normal, but we are now in the process of changing some of the exhibits. Exhibit work has been slow with the effects of everything else around us.

We did receive the exhibit entitled; “Fly Girls” from Texas Woman’s University. The University completed the exhibit in 2000 for the WASP Reunion, which was held, in part, on the TWU campus in Denton, Texas. The exhibit consists of 7 cloth panels that are attached to five freestanding fixtures or stands.

 Needless to say, Hurricane Ike took its toll on many events and the schoolhouse program came to a complete stop for the rest of September and all of October. Scheduled classes were moved to future dates or cancelled altogether.

We want to help those children in some way and decided to postpone our Teddy Bear Parade and redirect our Teddy Bear Parade Funds to support the Children of Galveston who lost everything. Those wishing to donate to this cause may do so through December 13th. We will be open on the 13th as part of the Historical Society Homes Tour.

With no classes coming, I had the opportunity to catch up on collection work. We especially want to thank those who donated items during the last two months. We want to thank John & Cindy Kmetz of Houston for their donation of a metal school desk with a flip top and chair attached. We also want to thank sixteen year-old Zhen-Ran Wu of Thailand for her art in the form of a banner of Chinese letters on rice paper and framed in silk. The saying means, “Never give up, you can conquer if you will”. We also want to thank Bertha Adams of League City for her recent donation of the magazines, “John F. Kennedy, Memorial Album” and TV Radio Mirror with the article, “How Jackie still speaks to Jack”. Bertha also donated a This Week story edition of the Houston Post, dated July 5, 1964 with the story entitled, “The Kennedy Wit”.

We are delighted to have the above items added to our collection and able to share them with Museum visitors and future generations. Anyone else wishing to add to our Museum collection may contact me at the Museum. We are always looking for school memorabilia and photos, League City artifacts and photos and family histories.
The Ghosts of the Past Tour scheduled for October 25 will be re-scheduled for Spring 2009 due to Hurricane Ike’s damage in our community.

I have told you about the Elderkin family in a previous newsletter, but I recently received from the U. S. Army the Individual Deceased Personnel File of George R. Elderkin so I wanted to retell his family’s story.

Frank W. Elderkin was born in Edinborough, Pa. He, his wife, Lois Depew Elderkin and family left Pennsylvania before 1920. He left his father, Dennison Elderkin, a survivor of the Civil War. Dennison Elderkin had fought for the Union in Co. H., 98th Regiment PA Infantry. A sister, Mrs. Frank (Estella) Smith also remained in Pennsylvania. The family moved to Texas, first living in Hardin County before coming to Galveston Co. prior to the 1930 census. Frank and Lois had ten children. They lost their son, Floyd Earl Elderkin when his ship, the Louisiana Merchant Marine Vessel was sunk in the Carribean on August 17, 1942.

They lost their son George R. Elderkin on March 1, 1945. George died in the R.A.F. Hospital #7 in Aden, Arabia. George stood 6 feet tall, weighted 150 lbs., had blue eyes and brown hair. He worked on the SS Joseph S. Emery. His death wasn’t a glorious war death and he did not appear on the WWII Death list as his brother did. He died of a kidney infection. He was immediately buried in the Maala Cemetery in Plot #52 at the hospital. His remains were removed and buried on June 6, 1947 in the U. S. Military Section of El Alia Cemetery, in Algiers, Algeria. His mother worked for four years to get her son returned to the U. S. An act of Congress authorized the removal and disinterment for final burial of the World War II dead in 1948. Froberg Funeral Home in Alvin received the remains of George R. Elderkin on March 8, 1949. Frank, Lois, and George Elderkin are buried in Block #88.

Thomas Benton Perkins came to this area with the Butlers from Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. He married Ella T. Graves in Galveston County December 18, 1866. He is buried in Magnolia Cemetery on the other side of Hwy 3. His wife and some of his children and grandchildren are buried in Fairview Cemetery. His grandson, James Vernon Perkins enlisted in Harris County on April 07, 1943 for the duration of the war. He was 19 years old. Seven Camp Hood soldiers were killed on the night of February 11, 1944 in the collision of an army bus with other vehicles near Burnet, TX. James V. Perkins was buried on February 13, 1944 in Fairview Cemetery. He was the son of the late Kinney Perkins and Mae Mosier. He and his father are buried in block #63.

Being involved with the research of the interred in Fairview Cemetery, I have had the opportunity to get to know the family history of a great many people in the League City area. I’m sure that many of you qualify for “Gone to Texas Pioneer Certificates”. These certificates are awarded by the Texas State Genealogical Society (TSGS) to direct descendants of the settlers that resided in Texas prior to 1886. For descendants of ancestors who settled in Texas before February 19, 1846, you might qualify for the “Texas First Families” certificate. If you would like an application form, please call me at 281-334-4950.

A Special Welcome to Our New Members
Janine and Mike Bocco
Judy, Daryl and Zachary Vaughan
Bill and Lori High

Holiday Home Tour
Diana Dornak, Chairman

Our Historic Homes Tour will be held Saturday, December 13th. The HHT Committee is busy getting ready to distribute flyers, posters and tickets. Publicity is nearly ready to go out. If you would like to be a docent at one of the homes or would like to help in another please email or call Diana Dornak or Joanna Sharp. It is going to be great fun dressing up to show people through the Historic Homes. What a wonderful way to celebrate the holiday in our community.

Please join us...you are welcome and we need your help.

Society member and genealogical expert, Melodye Hauch, has won a writing award from the Texas State Genealogical Society.

Melodye wrote about her work in the Arcadia Evergreen Cemetery, in the Santa Fe area. She has been notified of receiving the award, but won’t know what she has won until the annual Awards Banquet. Melodye also was asked to conduct a roundtable discussion at the annual conference in Abilene, held October 21-23. Great honors, Melodye. We’re proud of you.
League City Historic District
Commission Report to the
League City Historical Society
Fay Dudney
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC

August 21, 2008

• Approved a request to add approximately 0.2 acre parcel of land, and a request to construct a 1,600 sq. ft. deck with outdoor seating within the boundaries of the Historic District on property adjacent to the District boundary south of E. Main St., at 601 Main Street.

• Granted approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness of an Operations Permit at 1010 E. Main Street.

• Denied a Certificate of Appropriateness to waive sign requirements at 1010 Main Street.

• Conditionally approved a request to waive parking requirements for a Certificate of Appropriateness for an Operations Permit at 615 Main Street.

• Approved a Certificate of Appropriateness to place a temporary sign at 615 E. Main Street.

• Conditional approval was granted to waive sign requirements at a business at 216 No. Michigan Ave. Applicant is required to meet the Historic District requirements and re-submit this request for administrative Approval.

• Granted a Certificate of Appropriateness for an Operations Permit at 1026 Main Street.

• A waiver to the sign height requirements at 601 E. Main Street was approved.

• Approval of painting murals on sides of buildings within the historic District will be considered on a case by case basis and must meet the requirements of the Historic District.

• President of the LCHS, Joanna Sharp, discussed parking issues at the West Bay Common School at 2nd and Kansas Street. Additional parking will be required for visitors to the Historical Society structures.

September 11, 2008  This meeting was cancelled.

September 25, 2008

• Commission denied a permit for expansion of the League City Animal Control Shelter at 821 Kansas Ave.

• Permitted an above ground valve site to be added to the existing BP Pipeline on the grounds of the Dallas Salmon Waste Treatment Plant at 703 Wisconsin.

• Conditionally permitted the addition of a 5’ privacy fence at residence at 1023 4th Street.

October 16, 2008

• Granted a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for an Operations Permit at 1025 E. Main Street, Suite 102 and 103.

• Granted an Operations Permit to Interfaith Caring Ministries for a proposed new location at 151 Park Ave.

• Reviewed Interfaith Caring Ministries’ proposed renovations to the existing building at 151 Park Ave., and construction of an additional building at 149 Park Ave. to house a food Bank.

• Two positions are open on the Commission for a resident of the Historic District.

Grocery Accounts Benefit LCHS

JOANNA TESTS THE SYSTEM

There is a silver lining to the high price of groceries these days, for the Society that is.

Both Kroger and Randalls will donate dollars to us based on the amount of groceries we buy, using their store card.

Based on Ronnie Richards’ research, I went to both stores and “tuned” my cards to start the process for my shopping. The last two pages of this newsletter are the forms you need to take to each store completed.

At Kroger, you will need to present the letter, along with your card so that your card will be “tuned” at the register. Or you can go to the Customer Service booth to have it “tuned,” which only takes a minute.

Randall’s tuning is not instant, but takes a week or two. Just take them the completed letter on which you have written the number from your Randall’s card. They will take your letter and not process it while you wait—We just must have faith that it will work.

So please take a few minutes to print these forms and implement them—we must leave no stone unturned when it means a little bit of rebate money to the Society!
Heritage Park Dedication
November 14

Heritage Park, formerly known as Walter Hall’s wonderful home grounds, will officially be dedicated on November 14th at 10 am.

The grounds have been made more valuable as a park because of a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant that added strolling sidewalks looping around the park, a children’s playground in one corner, a public restroom in another, and a parking/picnic area on the northeast corner.

The new park is located in the Historic District on the corner of Wisconsin and Coryell, near the developing Butler Longhorn Museum.

Our LCHS Lapel Pin
Diane Gillette

The LCHS pins will once again be available for $5 at the October meeting. Wearing a pin will be a great way to spread the word about our wonderful society.

GET YOUR HISTORIC HOMES TOUR TICKETS NOW!

Advance tickets $12.00
Day of the event $15.00

We take Mastercard/Visa!

Just call or email and we will mail your tickets to you.
Diana Dornak 281-316-2122
diana.dornak1@verizon.net

From The Finance and Grant Chairman...
Diane Gillette

The Finance and Grant Committee is proud to announce that we received another large grant award to be used towards the operation of the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum. The Committee will meet again on October 27 to work on future grant requests with our consultant, SSCI.