October 25th Meeting

The New Definition of “Home Work”

Please join us at the next meeting for a hands-on discussion about historic restoration on a budget. You will get to see, hear and touch items from 7 different restoration projects right here in League City and learn how you can do it yourself. We will discuss a “Live In” restoration process that allows your home or building to be restored while you continue to live or work in it.

Richard Lewis, our next speaker is the person that not only restored our One Room Schoolhouse, Barn Museum and his 1901 home, but did all the window and door work on the Butler Building down the street. Come look at pictures and hear the discussion about how all this happened over the last 20 years.

Calendar

October 25  The New Definition of “Home Work” with Richard Lewis
            West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
            210 Kansas Street, League City
            6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

November 15  (note: a week earlier due to Thanksgiving)
            Louis Aulbach/Linda Gorski  Fort Logan, Houston
            December 8  Historic Homes Tour

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

The Eighth Annual Living History Dinner is now history, no pun intended. I want to thank all of those who made the evening possible and of course our sponsors. In particular Diana Dornak, Richard and Catharin Lewis and the entire team at Butler’s Courtyard including Janice Wilson Gunnin, Amber Richards Murphy and our bartender Tim Holder who donated all of his tips to the cause. And I can’t say enough about Almost Honest Abe Lincoln portrayed by Dr. Mark Dewalt. He was fantastic.

Dr. Mark Dewalt as President Abraham Lincoln at the beautiful and historic Butler’s Courtyard

The next big event is the Historic Holiday Homes Tour set for Saturday, December 8th. There is more information about this event elsewhere in the newsletter. Everyone can help by spreading the word about the event and buying tickets for friends and family. It’s a great way to see some of League City’s past and some really great homes and buildings beautifully decorated for Christmas.

Don’t miss the next meeting set for Thursday, October 25th at 6:45pm. At the meeting we will be nominating new board members for the coming cycle. Plus, our very own Richard Lewis will be presenting a talk on how to renovate and old home on a budget.

Be sure to visit us online at LeagueCityHistory.org and OneRoomSchoolHouse.org.
Meeting Minutes

September 27th Meeting

President Ronnie Richards welcomed members and guests to the September meeting at the School House Museum and invited guests to become members.

An appreciation was expressed to Joanna Sharp Dawson and Diane Dornak for providing refreshments.

Tickets are $50 each for the Living History Dinner on October 10. Abraham Lincoln will be portrayed.

A newsletter is provided for members.

Catharine Lewis introduced the speaker, Mayor Ralph Stenzel of Santa Fe, who has written several books on history.

Mayor Stenzel showed slides of The Hitchcock Naval Air Station. He discussed the war defense, the refineries, and other concerns in the area. Blimps were used to warn of an enemy. There was only one station at Lakehurst, New Jersey, so more stations were needed. The blimp station in Hitchcock was one of the largest in the world. He explained functions of military and facilities at the station. A historical marker has been erected at the site of the station.

A program is needed for the October meeting.

A nominating committee is needed for the October meeting. Evelyn Garland and Richard Lewis volunteered to work on this.

President Richards dismissed the meeting and invited people to view the pictures and other items brought by Mayor Stenzel.

OFFICERS & BOARD

Ronnie Richards  President
Kevin Burke  Vice-President
Diana Dornak  Treasurer
Diane Kerkhove  Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf  Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen  Director
Evelyn Garland  Director
Richard Lewis  Director
Doug McKee  Director
Helen Hodges  Director
Joanna Sharp Dawson  Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis  Museum Director

We thank Melody Hauch and Doris Teets for this month’s refreshments

MusNews

Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

The definition of a window by Webster is an opening in the wall of a building or a period of time regarded as highly favorable for initiating something. We are going to apply both definitions to one object. We look at windows for design, beauty and even opportunities to what lies beyond that opening or what might have been. We received a window from an anonymous donor that has very special meaning. This window has the beauty of many colors in a quilt-like design and we can reflect on what might have been during a different period of time. It is now our opportunity to share this piece of the past – one of the original windows from the Little Green Schoolhouse. The early school had stained glass windows in each of its three gables of the building according to pictures of this structure. Like the early photos, teacher’s desk, bell and chair from the Little Green Schoolhouse, we are proud to add the window to our collection for display. If you have any early artifacts from the Little Green Schoolhouse that you would like to share or loan for this special exhibit, we welcome your donations. Please bring them to the Museum.

We also received the VHS tape of the movie “Hope” and the film files for the movie by Goldie Hawn that was produced here in League City and debuted in 1997. A few years ago we received the tombstone prop used in the movie from the cemetery association. All are being prepared to be put on display in the near future.

Museum tour groups came from Kingwood, Deer Park, Silsbee and League City for the September schoolhouse programs. We had 197 visitors including 48 walk-in visitors and held seven sessions. We received $458 in program fees and $275.41 in gift shop sales.

Our classes this past week had the extra treat of a special visitor. We had Abraham Lincoln come to our recess program and share the story of his life. All the children from Ed White Elementary seemed delighted to have this honorable guest as part of our program. In an outreach to the community, we also shared Abraham Lincoln with the third grade classes of St Mary’s Catholic School and League City Elementary in afternoon programs. This was a memorable event to add to our program.

I continue to work on the collection trying to get everything digitized and added to the system. Richard installed a new sink in the outhouse since the original started to leak. We thank him for his endless volunteer time in making repairs when necessary in and around all the buildings. We will be trimming trees and bushes again soon.
This year’s Historic Homes Tour is going to be one of our best. Be sure to put this date on your calendar so you, your friends and neighbors can take the tour and enjoy kicking off the holiday season in a delightfully historic and meaningful way.

We have a list of sites this year that will be well worth your time to see.

The Fig Preserving Factory has previously been on tour; however, they have added some unique new features to the home and patio area. And...the McKe Home has been remodeled again and is a lovely, sweet home to visit. Doug and Charlene love having all the visitors and their hospitality is legendary. The Joshua McFaddin Home, Butler Longhorn Museum and Polanco Home have not been on our tour before. Though the Butler Longhorn Museum has been open for many tours, and because our tour is actually a “Home” Tour, special emphasis will be placed on the life and the home of Walter G. and Helen Hall, well known legends of League City’s past. Though the Polanco Home is new, it is in the historic area of town next to the Dr. Dallas Home which we will also tell you about. This site is going to be very interesting to visit.

So..............make sure you get tickets and bring a friend with you. Stop for lunch at one of the little tea rooms in League City’s Historic district and make this December 8th memorable and a celebration of League City’s historic past.

The regular meeting of the League City Historic District Commission was held at the Arolofo Civic Center September 20, 2012.

Commission met with Mr. Jim Dougherty, a land use attorney contracted by the City to assist in revising the appropriate ordinances to ensure the preservation of the District. The discussion with Mr. Dougherty centered on the vision Commissioners would like to see and what could be legally included in any ordinance revision. Also discussed was the history of the properties removed, ideas for ensuring a standard process for amending the boundaries of the District, and tools to achieve the Commissions goals. Mr. Dougherty will develop a matrix that identifies all appropriate ordinances related to the District which identifies overlapping regulations and contradictions.

Mr. David Hake and Mr. Rich Benoit, Historic District residents in attendance, voiced their concerns of the “Doughnut Hole” created by the de-annexation of one resident on North Kansas Avenue.

Staff Liaison, Wes Morrison, reported that Council approved the Main Street Implementation Plan from I45 to FM 270. Phase I of the $2,500,000.00 project includes design costs and upgrades to League Park on Main Street and the railroad crossing on Main Street. The FM518 Street Scape is separate from League Park improvements.

Wes Morrison reported that the City has received a grant from TCFQ to address storm water runoff and develop a model for other neighborhoods to follow.

The status of the Historic District Study will be presented on Tuesday night at the League City Lodge Assembly Room at Park Street and FM 518, at 6:30 p.m. Historic District residents are asked to attend and report flooding of their properties.

Mr. Morrison introduced Shawn Vaughn, Senior Planner with the City, who will be assisting him with the Historic District activities.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for October 18, 2012, 6:00 p.m., in City Council Chambers, 200 W. Walker Street.
LCHS Living History Dinner Highlights

Richard Lewis

Catherine Gill, Dr. Mark Dewalt (aka President Lincoln) and Sarah Eubanks

Doug and Charlene McKee

Sweets from our fabulous Silent Auction

Fall 2012 "D" Musing
Natural History Night
at
West Bay Common School
Children’s Museum

Come to discover coastal Texas’ flora and fauna where we combine science and history lessons from the 1890s with hands-on activities. Each workshop includes games, stories, and crafts that you can take home!

Second Tuesday "Be" of the Month

September 11th  Birds
October 9th  Bugs
November 13th  Birds
December 11th  Blooms **

** All 2012 Becoming BIRD LOVERS badges are included for one year of bird watching

Second Tuesday Evenings from 6 – 7:30 pm
Cost: $10 per child
Programs designed for ages 6 – 12

Registration and payment deadline is one week before event with no refunds 24 hours prior. September is extended to Sep 20th.

210 N. Kansas Ave
League City, TX 77573
(281) 584-3904
www.texaschoolhouse.org

FINE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL
November 3 - 4, 2012
Saturday, November 3, 10 am - 5 pm  Sunday, November 4, 10 am - 4 pm
Butler Longhorn Museum
220 Griggs • League City, Texas • 77573
(281) 333-1144  www.butlerlonghornculturecenter.com

Arts, Crafts, Food Vendors  •  Kids’ Crafts
Art Demonstrations  •  Butler Longhorn Museum  •  Live Music

Admission $5 (Kids under 12 FREE)