September 2011  Newsletter  Kathie Nenninger Editor knenninger@verizon.net

September 29, 2011 Meeting

We are delighted to have as our September speaker, Alecya Gallaway, a historian with a background in marine biology. Alecya will speak on two different areas of her recent research: “Clifton-By-The-Sea, a resort for League City” and Fig Farming in San Leon.” For the past ten years she has researched the ecological history of Galveston Bay from pre-European settlement to World War II using a combination of archival research of historical and ecological records and oral history of resource users and regulators.

She recently lead a Heritage Tourism Project for Galveston County, and her research on the Butler family, a saltgrass ranching family of northern Galveston County is the focus of the Butler Longhorn Museum and Heritage Park of League City.

Since 1999, Alecya has served as the court appointed Chairperson of the Galveston County Historical Commission.

Calendar

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<td>210 Kansas Street, League City</td>
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<td>October 1-2</td>
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from the President...

Ronnie Richards

The most active time of the year for the League City Historical Society is fast approaching. If you are receiving this and you aren't involved, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

• Saturday, September 24th we will be strolling in period costume in Helen’s Gardens in the League City Garden Club’s Strut Your Stuff Garden Tour. Just show up between 10am and 4pm and join us.

• October 1st & 2nd we have Oak Tree Festival and need volunteers for our booth. Call Jeff Hansen at 281-486-7226, if you can help for a few hours.

• October 6th is the biggest event of the year for the Society with the Living History Dinner. We need silent auction items and sponsors. All donations are tax deductible. Call Catharin at (281) 554-2994 for silent auction donations, sponsorships and event tickets.

• October 29th we will have Civil War soldiers camping at the Museum and the Ghost of the Past at Fairview Cemetery. We need assistance in taking tickets and guiding guests. Call (281) 554-2994 to volunteer.

At the September 29th meeting a Nominating Committee of three or more members will be elected to nominate new directors for 2012. Please consider serving on this committee or letting them know you would be willing to serve on the board next year. It doesn’t take that much time and it is very rewarding.
The Society continues to add new members. If you know anyone that might be interested in our organization they can find a membership enrollment form and a place to sign up for our monthly newsletter on our web site at www.leaguecityhistory.org. Please invite guests to our meetings and pass this information along.

P.S. You really don’t want to miss the next meeting. I guarantee it will be great thanks to the speaker recruited by Richard Lewis.

We thank Susan Pierce and Kathie Nenninger for this month’s refreshments.

Meeting Minutes
Diane Kerkhove

LCHS September 25 Meeting

At the August 25 meeting, President Ronnie Richards thanked Dr. Terry Williams for extending an invitation to our group to visit his car barn to see his collection of antique and vintage vehicles.

New members and guests were welcomed.

Joanna Dawson and Mike Conwell were thanked for their refreshments for the meeting.

The last weekend in September, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the gift shop will be open for a special sale of items. It will be open till 8 p.m. each night.

On Saturday there will be a guest artist event from 11 to 1 p.m. for a book signing at the museum. The artist will be from Austin.

The weekend of the Oak Tree Festival there will be a scarecrow contest at the museum.

At the September 22 meeting Alecya Gallaway will talk about brick companies in San Leon and Galveston County.

The hotel occupancy tax distributes funds to museums.

The Living History Dinner will feature a portrayal of Robert E. Lee on October 6.

Dr. Williams spoke about his collection of antique and vintage vehicles. He explained how he got started and of the various types of vehicles he owns. Members spent the evening viewing the vehicles in his car barn.

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.

We would like to introduce the newest members of our volunteer staff. Eleanor Colburn, Jerome and Fay Hoke are new to League City and to the Museum. Plan to stop in the mornings at the Museum to meet them and make them feel welcome. If you too would like to volunteer, we could still use your support. We need three hours of your time where you pick the day, morning or afternoon (not every week, but when you are available to help).

We wish to give special thanks to J’Nean Henderson, Gloria Tow, Anne Baugh and Catharin Lewis for their recent donations to the Museum. J’Nean donated a white dress trimmed in lace, an antique blouse and a pair of women’s black heels. These are fantastic items to add to our period clothing collection. Gloria donated five wonderful books for the schoolhouse collection entitled, Tom Swift in the Caves of Ice by Victor Appleton; First Reader by Free and Treadwell; Primer by Emma K. Gordon; The Bailey - Manly Spelling Book by Eliza R. Bailey and John M. Manly; and Alphabets by Germann Esser. We will be adding some of these to our new exhibits on Illustrators. Anne donated the book entitled The Riverside Readers - Third Reader and a copy of her Aunt’s handmade Thanksgiving Verse Booklet, dated 1921. Catharin Lewis donated a...
Bennington Flag of 1777 to be added to the collection. We are still looking for more of these early flags to complete the United States and Texas Flag Collection to be used in various exhibits during different periods of history.

If you have time and want to help Betty Moss with the **Schoolhouse Gardens**, please contact her at 281-334-7805. I am sure there are always weeds that need pulling or donations to replacement plants from the hot weather we have had this past summer.

Classes have been slow in September. We have scouts scheduled as well as five more groups from the Houston area.

The Museum and Gift Shop stayed open late for the **“Stroll with the Scarecrow Sale”**, Thursday and Friday from 9 – 8 pm and Saturday September 24th from 10 – 4pm. Saturday was also our **“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. We look for this to be a big success.

If you have not purchased tickets for the **Living History dinner**, please do so fast. Tickets are available at the Museum. We only have 40 left. We still need **Auction Items or cash donations**! Please bring your donations to the next meeting on the 29th at the Museum or by Monday October 3rd. Thank you in advance for your support in this way.

Our Annual Ghosts of the Past 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. There is a list of food items still needed to host our soldiers for the event. Please contact Catharin for more details, if you can provide something. Watch for more details in next month’s newsletter.

A special thank you newsletter to Butler’s Courtyard for their special donation of much needed items of toilet paper, paper bags and band aids.

| **A Special Welcome to Our New Members** |
| Helen D. Mooty, Judith Drottz Hollis and Anne Baugh |

**Come Meet the Artist**

**September 24, 2011**

**Nathan Jensen**

Saturday September 24th from 10 – 4pm.

West Bay Common Schoolhouse and Children’s Museum
Historic Homes Tour – Saturday, December 10

The 2011 Historic Homes Tour will take place Saturday, December 10.

Six sites will be open for viewing:

- The Station Master’s House – League Park
- The T. J. Dick Home – 720 Second St.
- The Snell Kilgore Home – 403 N. Kansas Ave.
- The Friends Church – 923 Third St.
- The Cox McQuirk Home – 1518 E. Walker St.
- West Bay Common School Children’s Museum – 210 N. Kansas Ave.

Tickets prior to the event will be $13 and will be available at West Bay Common School Children’s Museum in October and in November at Book Haven, Nana’s Attic, The Milk Pail, Park Avenue Show Place, League City Chamber of Commerce, and Butler Longhorn Museum. On the day of the tour tickets will be $15.

Diana Dornak and Nancy Richards are co-chairing the event this year. They are planning some new things for the event that will make it an even more fun and exciting day for visitors to the sites. Be sure to put “Historic Homes Tour – Dec. 10” on your calendar!

The 17th ANNUAL OAK TREE FESTIVAL

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.

League City Historic District Commission Report

LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC

Fay Dudney

September 22, 2011

The League City Historic District Commission met at the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center, September 22, 2011, to hold a public hearing on potential drainage improvements along Kansas Street, and other potential drainage improvements within the Historic District. Approximately 50 to 75 residents of the District, Acting City Manager Rich Oller, several council members, including Mayor Tim Paullisen, City Staff, and representatives of the HDR Consulting firm attended.

Residents expressed concerns with drainage and flooding during heavy rainfalls and requested that a survey be conducted to determine problem spots from flooding and other issues in the district, before a plan is designed. The residents do not wish to lose the ambiance of the Historic District, and requested that any proposed improvements should be in keeping with the uniqueness and history of the District. Asphalt paving, and no sidewalks are preferred. Streets that have been raised by additional paving should be lowered to original levels. Drainage from 4th Street on Kansas to Clear Creek should be addressed. Special care of existing trees should be executed prior to and during construction. All appreciated the opportunity to voice their concerns at a public hearing and urged that the problems and solutions thereof be identified before a plan is made.

The consultants will include residents concerns as they survey problem areas and determine possible solutions to include in the project.

Recording of the public hearing will be posted on the City’s website and/or e-mail in approximately one week. Another public hearing will be scheduled as plans for the project progress.

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

Become involved...

with Community Projects

Scarecrow Festival
Throughout the fall, The League City Historic District Shoppes and Museums are having a Scarecrow Festival. Over 15 scarecrows have been spotted. Please stop by our local businesses for a selection of fall items and fun activities.

Friends of the Ghirardi Compton Oak

1504 7th Street
League City, Texas
lmize49@verizon.net

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As hard as we have worked to save our dear Ghirardi Compton Oak, it is in more danger today than ever before. This 13 foot 3 inch around Compton Oak is estimated to be over 100 years old and one of the rarest of all oak trees. Some say it may be the second largest of its kind in the country. But, the city is focused on slashing budgets instead of saving our heritage; this is the reason why people visit and/or move to League City in the first place! Please drive by and see it at the corner of FM 518 and Louisiana and understand why it is seen as such a blessing to our community.

In the meantime, we are working on saving it every day and we need your help and support in two ways. The first is to attend the city council meeting on September 27 and speak on its behalf in the public forum by signing up just before 6pm. Second, we are asking for pledges to be made to Patrons of the Park to support the moving of the tree with the attached letter. Leslye and Mike Mize have pledged $500 and we would appreciate a match or anything you feel you can afford. We want the city council to know that we are all standing under the shade of this oak together.

Thank you so much dear friends for doing the right thing! There are many gifts in this world that are worth our time and effort, and this old oak, in our view, is one of those gifts. For more information, please contact one of us.

Leslye Mize
Mike Mize
Peter Guglielmo
Kathy Weisskopf
Katie Benoit Hake
Jamie DeFabio
Fay Dudney
Joanna Sharp Dawson