September 27
Matt Zeve, Speaker

October 24 – 27
WWI 100th Anniversary Mobile Museum

October 27
“Honoring Veterans of WWI”

November
Jill Brooks
Houston’s Founders Cemetery and DAR

December
No Speaker Series

SAVE THE DATES!!

Attention: Board Members
Board Meeting October 6

Houston Area Post Harvey

To appreciate the discussion of Harris County, Texas’ primary natural hazard – flooding – we need to understand how the community’s expectations have changed over time, along with defining what is a “flood.” This presentation provides some context to the social and engineering evolution related to flooding that has occurred in Harris County over the past century and a half.

The presentation follows the earliest known experiences with flooding, through attempts to cope with the natural flood threat. The earliest reference to engineering design criteria was in the early 1900’s. Over the following century, the understanding of flood risk improved but current expectations do not match the level of protection provided by the extensive drainage and flood control systems built to earlier standards. What we ended up with is a community that drains very well, but still floods occasionally.

Matthew Zeve, P.E., is the Deputy Executive Director for the Harris County Flood Control District. Under his direction, the District carries out its mission to devise countywide flood damage reduction plans, implement those plans, and maintain the infrastructure. That mission is executed in the third most populated county in the United States, with a population in excess of 4.5 million, which includes the City of Houston, the nation’s fourth largest city. The District has jurisdiction over the primary stormwater facilities in the county, which consist of about 1,500 channels, totaling 2,500 miles in length, as well as more than 60 regional stormwater detention basins and a 2.5-square mile wetlands mitigation bank.

After graduating from Texas A&M University with a Bachelors and Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering, Matt successfully practiced engineering as a consultant in the private industry before joining the Harris County Flood Control District in November 2015. Matt has spent his entire professional career working on drainage projects primarily in the Houston Metropolitan area.
Doug McKee welcomed everyone to the meeting. Richard Lewis announced the WWI traveling exhibit coming to the Barn Museum in October and called for volunteers to set up and take down the exhibit and to work during the exhibit. The exhibit will be free and on display October 24 through 27. The exhibit will travel to Washington, D.C. and New York City after visiting our Barn Museum.

Steph McDougal announced the remaining speakers for this year, and encouraged lifetime memberships to the Historical Society. She then introduced our speakers, Melodey Hauch, Deborah Gammon, and Susan Adams. Ms. Adams spoke to us about a program called “Wreaths Across America.” League City’s Fairview Cemetery is now a participant in this nationwide annual event. Over 1-1/2 million wreaths were laid last year on the graves of veterans in this country and select cemeteries abroad. This year’s ceremony will take place at Fairview at 11:00 am, Saturday, December 15 (the same time that wreaths will be placed at Arlington National Cemetery), and everyone is invited. For more information or to make a donation, go to wreathsacrossamerica.org and look for League City’s Fairview Cemetery.

Melodey Hauch spoke about Fairview Cemetery’s early history. The land for Fairview was purchased in February 1900, and Fairview Cemetery Association was formed in 1907. Today the organization is called Fairview Cemetery Group, Inc. The group organizes the maintenance of the grounds and trees, clean-up after storms, rectifies problems caused by vandalism, coordinates arrangements between the deceased’s family and the funeral home, determines and sells unused space, does fundraising to pay for all maintenance costs, and has recently added fencing, lighting, and signs to the cemetery. Melodey recognized those in attendance who are members of Fairview Cemetery Group. The first documented survey of Fairview was conducted during 1977 by Texas City Ancestry Searchers and listed 543 graves. Melodey’s survey in 2006 found 902 identified graves and over 100 unmarked graves, and her survey was posted to TXGenWeb and Findagrave.com. She has also compiled a manuscript with burial and family histories. Her most recent survey found 1,200 known graves and 300 unmarked graves. The unmarked graves probably had wooden crosses at one time which deteriorated and disappeared. Thanks to the recordkeeping done by previous caretakers Allison Stewart and Jack Phillips, Catharin Lewis has created an extensive burial database, coupling death certificates with obituaries, kept at the Barn Museum. A section of the cemetery holds 47 known graves of Japanese immigrants, including that of Seito Saibara who was brought to Texas to advise local farmers about rice cultivation and who later colonized Webster, Texas. Fairview was awarded Texas Historical Marker No. 17637, thanks to the hard work of Catharin Lewis and Barbara Holt in submitting a very detailed history of Fairview.

Deborah Gammon spoke to us about her trials, tribulations, and eventual success in getting V.A. markers for three WWI soldiers buried in Fairview Cemetery, Tommy Cook, Frank Ellis, and Oscar Juenger. The marker for Tommy Cook was a cake walk compared to what Deborah went through later trying to get Ellis and Juenger’s markers. V.A. paperwork, a visit before Judge Lonnie Cox, an interview on Channel 11, intensive searches for the soldiers’ families, multiple phone calls and letters, and a fortuitous meeting at a ceremony at Washington Cemetery is all it
The museum has been quiet lately with my latest mishap and surgery on my knee. I am recovering from tearing my quadriceps tendons which had to be reconnected. I have not been able to be open except for preregistered classes. I have been working on some things at home during this recovery process and hope to return full time soon.

We had 127 visitors last month with two schoolhouse programs and one evening speaker event. We are taking reservations for fall and spring schoolhouse programs.

We will need your HELP. We are looking for special helpers for the WWI traveling exhibit. Sign up to help either October 23 to set up, or October 28 to take down the exhibit. Any number of hours you can work will be great! During the four days of the exhibit, we could use a few extra hands to help cover the dinner hour. This would be a short amount of your time, but filling a big need. You pick the time and volunteers eat when you come. (4-6pm) The museum will be open Noon to 8pm during the exhibit. Call the museum if you want to help.

What we call progress is the exchange of one nuisance for another.
Havelock Ellis

Special Thanks to our Teachers
Linda Michaels, Catherine Gill, Joan Peeples & Sarah Eubanks
The League City Historical Society presents

World War I 100th Anniversary
Mobile Museum
"Lest We Forget"

October 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th 2018

Open daily noon - 8 PM

210 North Kansas, League City, Texas 77573
League City Historical Society's Barn Museum

* Free Admission *
Self-guided and hourly guided tours

A nationally recognized traveling museum exhibiting original artifacts from the Great War including all facets from trench warfare to photographic and cinematic treatment of the war to Christmas time during the conflict.

Sponsored by:
Galveston County Historical Commission
D&D Pest Control
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For more information contact the League City Historical Society at 281-554-2994, leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com, or www.leaguecityhistory.org