



## March 2023 Newsletter



- Blake & Jody Sanchez
- Crystal Luna
- **Mithras, Ltd.**

**RENEW YOUR  
SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP  
TODAY.**

Join or renew your LCHS  
Membership/Dues  
online at  
[leaguecityhistory.org](http://leaguecityhistory.org)  
or send a check to  
League City Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1642  
League City, TX. 77574

**We appreciate your  
membership & support**



February and March have been a very successful time for the LCHS. Several projects are approaching completion, from new exhibits showcasing additional artifacts along with all the work Kristen Tyson continues to do by writing the deep history of each item. Then on March 1<sup>st</sup>, with the help from Joyce Zongrone, the LCHS partnered with the City of League City to host a history lesson for the striking *Miss League City Pageant* contestants. This was exciting since they had the opportunity to understand how children attended school back in the late 1800s. They sat in the same seats at the West Bay Common School Children's Museum as children did over a century ago. I want to thank the City of League City for involving the LCHS in several initiatives including the new Heritage Signature Trail that will run throughout the historic district. Great times ahead. ( See pictures below.)

# Miss League City Pageant Contestants



Photos Courtesy:  
The *City of League City*





## Remember Last Month

our article about the LCHS being invited by CCISD to judge an Academic Decathlon where one of the participants was a wonderful 16 year old Clear Springs HS student? Well we have an update for you. It was pointed out last month that she was also a *Reserve Grand Champion* artist at the *Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo*. The HLSR just had their auction and look what her painting sold for.

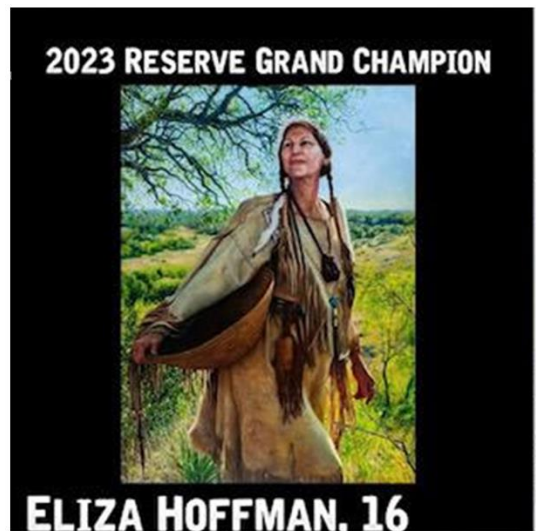


**Clear Creek ISD**

5h · 🌐

**Congratulations to Clear Spring High School's Eliza Hoffman for selling her Reserve Grand Champion painting for \$185,000 at the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo School Art Auction! CCISD proud!**

📷: Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo



👍❤️😮 497

42 Comments 20 Shares



## Music at the Museum

This Friday, the *Texas Victorian Lady*

\*\*\* Bring the whole family \*\*\*

February 24<sup>th</sup> *Music at the Museum* was another huge success with over 200 guests. During the event we heard that the museum grounds were honored as one of the best Outdoor Listening Rooms. This set the stage for an exciting evening while we all had the opportunity to listen to the talented musicians play their music in front of the historic Barbershop and Icehouse.

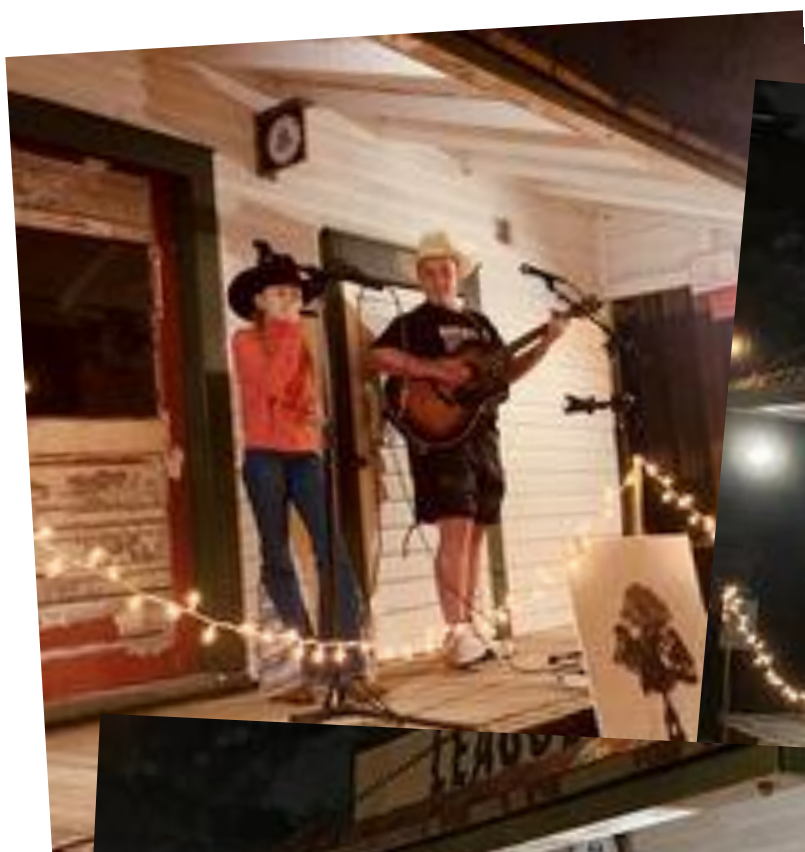


As for our tradition, we started the night with a little history thanks to the research done by Joyce Zongrone. We discussed how the first telephone made it to League City. It all started when Colonel A. H. Belo of Galveston, attended the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition in 1876. He was intrigued with Alexander Graham Bell's invention. Being the publisher for Galveston News, he installed a line between his newspaper office and his home on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1878. That being the first telephone

in the State of Texas; League City though, did not have its telephone service until 1909. In June 1909, 186 telephone poles arrived in League City from Elmhurst, WI. The poles and wires were run in the alleys to keep the appearance of the streets clean. The newly constructed Butler Building housed the exchange switchboard. By 1933, League City had 106 telephones installed.



Please plan on joining our next event, this Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> since it is our one-year anniversary of the *Music at the Museum*. Tucker & Rachel Hart have arranged several of the best musicians to attend this special evening. To kick the evening off for our history lesson, we will have a very special guest. The **Texas Victorian Lady** (Ms. J'Neen Henderson), with the help of two beautiful models will have a show-and-tell on the elegance of attire for women back in the Victorian Era. As always, this is a family focused event so bring your chairs & get ready for a spectacular evening **Under The Oaks** in Historic League City.



# Volunteers Needed @ Museum

For

Save  
The  
Date



# *The Italian Experience in League City*

*By Caris Brown and Joyce Zongrone*

Over a period of 30 years, between 1891 and 1921, twelve Italian families emigrated from Cercenaso, Italy, to League City. They came through Ellis Island, sailed to Galveston and moved inland.

The first to arrive was the Valglienti family in 1891, followed by the Ghirardis, 1893 (their son, George Girardi, gave his life in World War I while serving in the US Army); the Arolfos, 1897 (Johnny Arolfo was the first mayor of League City, 1962-1977); the Fillippas, 1898; the Galifones, 1903; the Daros and the Saraccos, 1906; the Morattos, 1910; the Cassinas, the Cuccos, and the Truccones, 1913; and the Boccas, 1921.

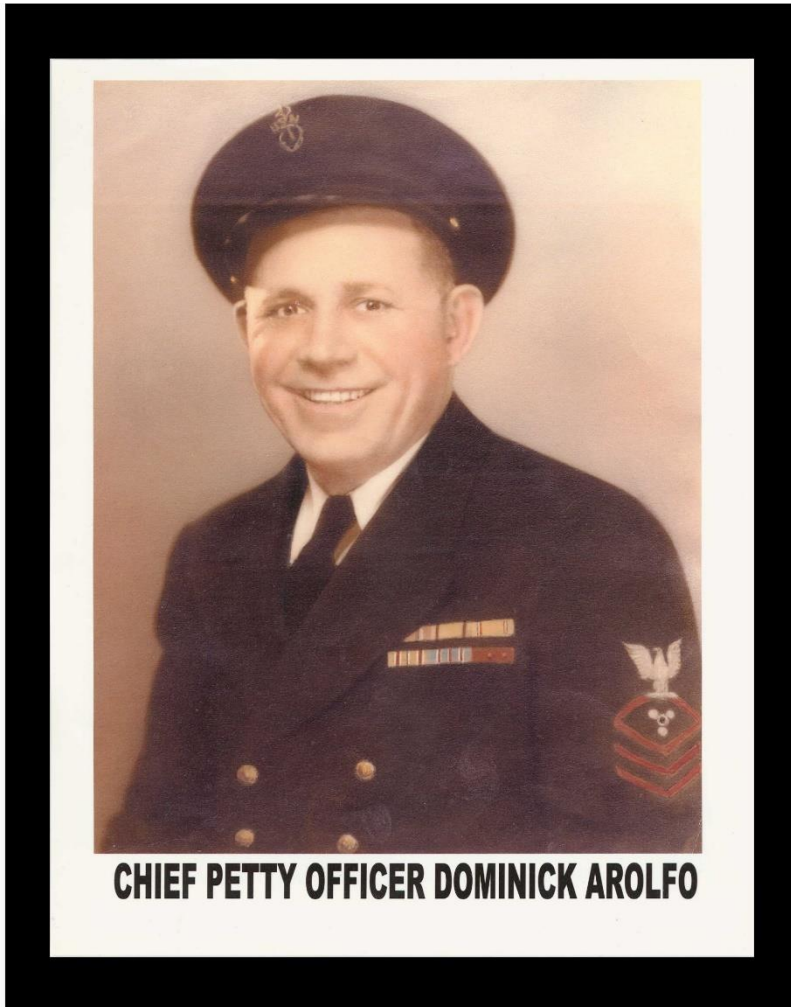


All of the immigrants became farmers. Rural life in League City was challenging. Without electricity or mechanized equipment in the early years, farming was brutal and demanding. They saw Texas as a true land of opportunity when compared to the economic conditions of their native land. Here they could create their own wealth, which was almost impossible to do in their homeland.

They had no means of communication. They were cut off from everything they had once known and lost touch with family and friends in Italy.



Many were illiterate and could not write letters home and there were no telephones. Many spoke their native Piedmontese dialect and did not speak English well. This resulted in a bitter rift between them and the rest of the community.



However, some residents were understanding. One store owner defended them. He said, *“Many of you dislike Italians, but they are some of my best customers and always pay me in cash. They work hard, are trustworthy and honest, and cause no troubles. Many of the non-Italians cannot afford to pay me at times, so I have to give them credit – and, then, I often have a lot of difficulty in getting them to pay me later.”* The Italians persevered, producing a cohesive community that even maintains close relationships today.

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the unexpected passing of Tommy Frankovich, a long time member and volunteer for our organization and former Mayor of League City as well as a Director on our Board for many years.

