



## Airing of the Quilts 2020

J M Parke Home – 3<sup>rd</sup> St.



## Christmas in Old League City

Weekend of Dec 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Saturday and Sunday. 10am to 4pm



- Vintage cars
- Demonstrations at museum
- Porch Parties including music, home history, games, art displays, singing....
- Lighting and decoration
- Airing of the Quilts, all weekend!

**Want to volunteer as docent, musical talent, costumed stroller or just be a part of it all?**

Call the museum at 281-554-2994 or  
email [leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com)

\* Check out <https://leaguecityhistory.org/walkabout>  
for WALKabout tickets!! \*

## From The President



Dear LCHS Members & Friends,

Well...Halloween is over and the holiday season has begun, ..and what a wonderful one it is going to be!

Here is a list of LCHS activities you might consider participating in if you want to get in the holiday spirit.

**\*Enjoy one of our WALKabouts.** It's a good way to learn about local history and also get a little exercise on a lovely fall day.

**\*Volunteer to help with "Christmas in Old League City."** You can do as much or as little as you have time for – such as decorate and light up your home or hang a quilt on the porch for "Airing of the Quilts".

**\*If you just don't want to get out...make some cookies or little treats for the Holiday in the Park Booth!** See more details on various events and contact information in this newsletter.

**LCHS will have a short general meeting on Thursday, Nov. 18 at 6:30** and following the meeting we will have a short board meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

We look forward to seeing you during this holiday season.

**FAITH AND SERVICE,  
Doug McKee, President**

# Halloween Presentation of Murder & Mayhem WALKabout For Sam Houston Chapter, NSDAR By Deborah Gammon

League City Historical Society had a Halloween WALKabout for Sam Houston Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution on October 30, 2021. Guests included several LCHS Board members. Thirteen members of Sam Houston Chapter attended the event.



The tour was led by Sam Houston Chapter member and LCHS Director, Deborah Gammon and Treasurer of LCHS, Katie Benoit Hake. The City of League City provided the wonderful swag bags for the attendees. The event was concluded with Historic Preservation certificates and pins for J'Neen Henderson for her restoration of the Judge Charles Dibrell/Harry Coons Home on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. We learned that J'Neen and her late husband, Doug Henderson, were the first homeowners in Old League City to restore their home. That spurred others in the neighborhood to also restore their homes.

Sam Houston Chapter also awarded Kalie and Mark Trahan, the owners of the Thomas N. Snell/T.A. Kilgore home on North Kansas, with a Historic Preservation Certificate and pin.

(Continued on next page.)



(Murder & Mayhem Special Presentation from previous page – continued.)



Pictured left is Regent Sarah Adams Cook with Kalie and Mark Trahan, owners of the Snell/Kilgore Home, 403 N. Kansas Ave. and members of the Sam Houston Chapter in the background.

The picture below right was taken at the Dibrell/Coons home, 720 Third St., owned by J'Neen Henderson. Regent Sarah Adams Cook is presenting the certificate and pin to Mrs. Henderson with members of the Sam Houston Chapter and LCHS Board of Directors in attendance.

Below: LCHS Brd. members Katie Benoit Hake and Deborah Gammon greeted Sam Houston Chapter members for the special presentation. *Photo by Joyce Zongrone who also took the group shot on the previous page.*





# **WALKabouts for November and December...**

## **Don't miss the adventure!**



### **WALKabout League Park**

**November 6th OR 20th**

**10 am**

**Start at League Park Plaza**

**Total of 15 tickets/each day**

**\$10 each**

Learn about League Park's history as well as the stories behind the iconic gazebo/bandstand, details about the Stationmaster's House, and the often overlooked Artesian Well. This WALKabout takes place at the Park and involves little walking. 45 minutes.

### **WALKabout Old League City**

**November 13th**

**10 am**

**Start at Museum, 210 N Kansas**

**Total of 15 tickets**

**\$10 each**

Following the route of the old business district, this WALKabout highlights some of the businesses and colorful characters who lived and worked along this main thoroughfare. About 1 mile, 45 minutes.



### **WALKabout Christmas in Old LC**

**December 11th**

**10 am OR 12 noon**

**Start at League Park Plaza**

**Total of 15 tickets each time slot**

**\$10 each**

Happening during the Saturday of Christmas in Old League City, guests will also be delighted by the Airing of the Quilts, vintage cars, music, demonstrations, and holiday decorations. This WALKabout will also participate in a special demonstration at the One Room Schoolhouse and pick up "sweet" treats along the way. About 1 mile, 1 hour.



**\*\* Get your tickets at [www.leaguecityhistory.org](http://www.leaguecityhistory.org) \*\***

# AN ICEHOUSE FROZEN IN TIME

By Joyce Zongrone

In front of the Barn Museum sits The 1927 Salmon Icehouse/1936 Barbershop Museum, a site on the *Murder and Mayhem WALKabout*.

The Texas icehouse can be traced as far back as 1840, when ships in Maine would load their holds with ice, head down the coast and into the Gulf of Mexico and sell whatever had not melted when they docked in Galveston.

Built in 1927, the Salmon Icehouse was originally located one block toward the railroad tracks in the 600 block of Second Street. It was moved for restoration and preservation in 1994. It was originally built for Frank Emmite of Dickinson by a prominent area home builder, Robert Parke. Emmite, along with John Falco and others, started the Dickinson Ice and Fuel Company, developing a refrigeration system in 1923 and a way to make ice and started producing forty tons of ice a day from artesian wells and springs, four to six hundred feet below the surface.

The League City Icehouse serviced five cities Kemah, Webster, Seabrook, League City and Friendswood with block ice. Initially, League City got its ice from a Tennessee Ice Farm, transported by train and kept cold with layers of straw and sawdust. Later on, the town of Dickinson delivered their ice to the icehouse by truck.

John Dallas Salmon leased the icehouse along with the help of Lawrence Walker and Jack and Joe Holly. Salmon was also a League City Councilmember and the son of garage owner John Salmon, who was shot five times in 1921, on the Galveston and Harris County line, near the Clear Creek Bridge.

In 1936, Lee Price opened a barber shop in the left side of the building. Mr. Price kept flexible business hours to accommodate the ranch hands when they came to town. Sometimes he could be seen cutting hair at midnight, before catching the last Interurban to his home in Webster.



The Salmon Icehouse in 1927

Two world wars depleted the barbershop's customers as many men went off to serve. In later years the building was used for a beauty shop, a Boy Scout headquarters, a nurseryman's office and also a local spot for evening poker games.

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(An Icehouse Frozen in Time – Continued from previous page.)

As refrigerators and freezers became common appliances during World War II, going into mass-production in the mid-1940s, the icehouse was no longer needed.

According to local history, in 1989, Nick Delesandri contacted the newly-founded League City Historical Society and asked President Diana Dornak if the group would be interested in the old icehouse. Diana drove out to his pasture near Kemah, where the building was located. It was in sad shape but



Before picture of little 12x18 business on the museum property

The Icehouse when LCHS received it for restoration.

both Nick and Diana realized it had possibilities and they knew the historical value of this building had to the city's history. Marsh House Movers, still in business today, volunteered to move the building to Clear Creek High School where shop students volunteered to make a project of the restoration needs. After it sat unfinished at the High School for a few years, they again volunteered to move it to our museum property. Teacher Alecya Moore sculpted the statues. Mike Fenimore and Larry Humphrey did the actual work until they passed away and Richard Lewis and Peggy Fenimore's son added the porch/dock. Eagle Scouts initially painted the building and repaired the back wall with cedar wood. The final restoration you see here was done by Dave Hake and Michael Peterson.

The icehouse restoration included ghostlike figures who electronically tell the City's history with the push of a button. These figures were made from men born in League City and all except the children have passed on.



The Icehouse after restoration.



G I Butler and Alecya Moore



Allison Stewart

The man sitting in the barber's chair is G.I. Butler, the grandson of George Washington Butler, who built the very first two-story brick building in League City.

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(An Icehouse Frozen in Time – Continued.)

This building, now a one-story brick building, Butler's Courtyard, is located two blocks down toward the railroad tracks on the left. G. I. was born in 1909 and died in 1998.

The barber standing and giving G. I. a shave is Allison Stewart, the son of LaVace Stewart, the namesake of Stewart Elementary School, Kemah, Texas. When the plaster mold of him was made, he went home excited and told his wife that he was to be in this Living History Project. He said that after he died, she would not have to go to the end of Kansas to his graveside, she could stop by the schoolhouse and talk to him the rest of her life. She said he was not funny. Allison also said that after being plastered for six hours, he did not even have a "hang over." The other man in the Icehouse is Herbert Medsger, nicknamed "Skeeter" as a child as he ran through the streets of League City. He became an oilman and he remembered well the Texas City Accident of 1947.

The little boy was five years old when his plaster mold was made. Ryan is the grandson of Nick Delesandri who helped preserve the building. He came dressed in a T-shirt and a pair of shorts. Another shirt was added and a pair of overalls. Ryan did not want his eyes plastered so only his head, hands and arms were plastered. He began to get upset that plaster was getting on his brand-new overalls. He was promised another pair, but since he was on the verge of crying, he was sent him home and a girl was found to take his place. So, the top is a boy and the bottom is a girl. The young girl was Brooke Seshar, now Brooke Seshar Stanfield, the granddaughter of J'Neen Henderson, "The Victorian Lady."

The Icehouse/Barbershop has seen well over 100,000 visitors helping to put the city's history back together to share with everyone.



Little boy on stool in barber shop  
Top half a boy, bottom half a girl.



Above: Left to right:  
Brooke Seshar & Ryanm,  
Grandson of Nick  
Delesandri.





## Christmas Goodies Needed For Holiday In The Park Booth!

**Don't forget!! LCHS will be having a booth at Holiday In The Park  
Celebration in League Park on December 3,4,5.**

Cookies and other treats are needed. Catherine Gill will be contacting you to ask for your help at the booth,-- either by baking goodies to sell or purchasing pre-made items for us. She will also need people to work in the booth which is always fun. You get to see a lot of old friends and represent the League City Historical Society as well. So keep us in mind when you are planning your schedule for the holiday season.

Anything you can do to help is much appreciated!

Call or email Catherine to volunteer!

**Catherine Gill, 832-673-5531**

**Cath\_scott\_gill@yahoo.com**



## **\*\* Help decorate for the Holidays! \*\***

We are getting ready for Christmas in Old League City -  
need to hang some lights and add some bows to the museum property!

\*

**Come on out Saturday, November 27th at 10:00 am**

**Bring gloves, work clothes, and good cheer**

**Hot coffee and kolache will be provided to keep up morale**

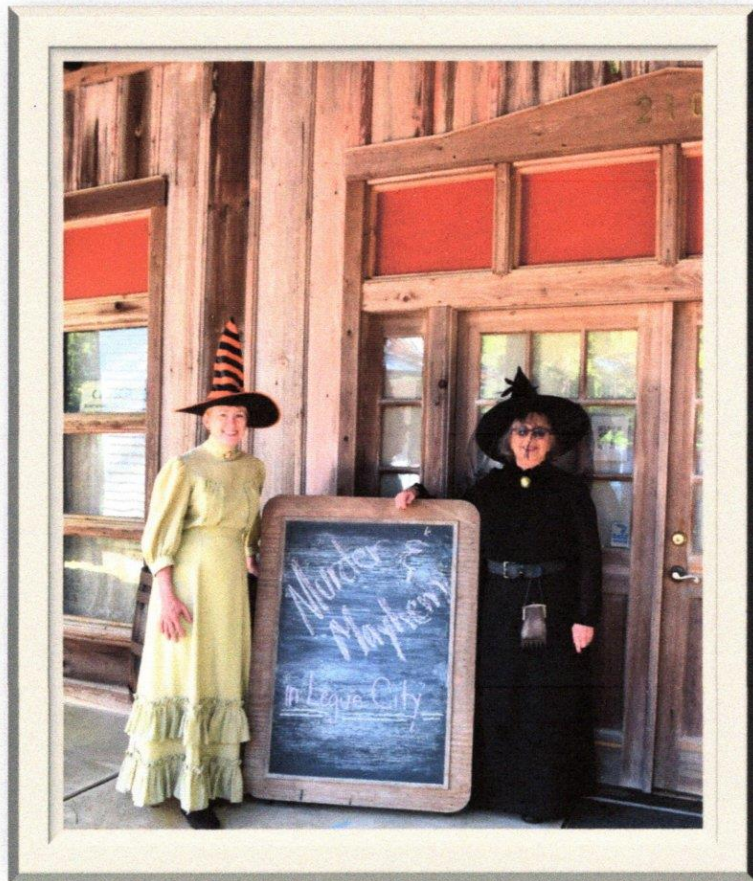


Email [leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com) if you  
are available to volunteer 





Come experience living history as a **League City Historical Society Volunteer Docent** through our unique WALKabout program. WALKabouts transform our city's history into a firsthand experience in the very streets where it all happened. As docents you inform and challenge your audiences and provide them with an opportunity to tell their own stories, stimulating curiosity and imagination, while guiding them to a deeper understanding of the people and places that transformed League City.



Our WALKabout themes include:

Murder & Mayhem – Turn of the century crime scenes

League City Park – Dating back to 1900

Old League City – The heart of the city and its historic homes

Old League City Christmas – Historic District Decorations

WALKabouts last approximately 45 minutes and cover 1 mile.

For more information Contact: [leaguecityhistory.org](http://leaguecityhistory.org)

281-554-2994

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## LCHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The 2021 LCHS Nominating Committee is proud to announce the slate of Directors for the 2022 Board of Directors. The election will be held at our November Meeting.

Diana Dornak	Helen Hodges
Darryl Krogman	Catharin Lewis
Linda Michael	Mike Peterson
Susan Pierce	Ronnie Richards



\* \* \* \* \*

### Remember When.....

The Old Methodist Church Parsonage at 612 4<sup>th</sup> St. was on the LCHS Christmas Homes Tour about 20 years ago. Pictured below are the docents who helped on that home tour. I am sure you recognize some of these smiling faces!



### League City Historical Society 2021 Officers

Doug McKee, President  
 Richard Lewis, Vice President  
 Amber Murphy, Secretary  
 Katie Benoit Hake, Treasurer

### 2021 Directors

Diana Dornak	Director
Deborah Gammon	Director
Helen Hodges	Director
Darryl Krogman	Director
Catharin Lewis	Director
Linda Michael	Director
Michael Peterson	Director
Susan Pierce	Director
Ronnie Richards	Director



**\*The message below was printed and passed out door to door in the League City Historic District to inform them about activities and festivities happening in the upcoming holiday season.**

## **2021 Christmas in Old League City!**



Hello again neighbors and friends,

Another challenging year but the League City Historical Society would once again like to invite you to decorate and...

### **"Celebrate with Lights"!**

String up lights, festoon your porch with greenery, add some ribbon and wreaths, and decorate your home or business to share some Holiday spirit. There will be no judging, just the enjoyment and good cheer that it brings to our neighborhood and all who visit.

We would ask you to be **decorated by Thanksgiving, November 25th**. That is the weekend we are going to light and decorate the One Room Schoolhouse and Museum grounds and are asking you to join in!

## **December 11th AND 12th, "Celebrate Old League City!"**

**Airing of the Quilts** - This was a huge success last year with neighbors and visitors alike walking the area and enjoying the lovely displays. If you would like more information about Airing of the Quilts, please feel free to check out this link: [www.airingofthequilts](http://www.airingofthequilts). Family quilts are great or if you have a quilt or quilts that you are proud of we would encourage you to display them. These personalized quilts make for a unique decoration and encourage folks to slow-down and appreciate your home.

**Porch Parties!** - NEW this year ...Porch Parties are events that happen outside on your porch or lawn and can be as creative as you! If you have the story of your home/business or the people that have lived there, we would encourage you to display this out front of your home or office. BE CREATIVE - outdoor games to play, display your artwork, play an instrument alone or with a group, serenade with song, demonstrate a handmade skill, or simply dress in period costume. Let's make this fun for everyone of all ages!

**Vintage Vehicles** - beautiful vintage cars and trucks will be parked around the neighborhood. Wonderful for photo ops and a fantastic way to meet the owners as well as learn the history and care of these treasured modes of transportation.

**WALKabout Old League City** - The League City Historical Society will be having two morning WALKabouts on Saturday, December 11th through the neighborhood to highlight the people and places that make this such a great place. For more information or to book your tour, check out LCHS website at [www.leaguecityhistory.org](http://www.leaguecityhistory.org).

Of course, if you have any questions please email us at [leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com](mailto:leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com) or call 281-554-2994. If you would like assistance with Porch Party ideas or your home help as well.

Sincerely,

*Board and Membership*

**League City Historical Society**





If You Are Not A Member, We Are Hoping You Will Join!!

# League City Historical Society

Thank you for being a member. The various types of memberships with the associated dues are listed below. To renew your membership or become a new member, select the membership level that is best for you, complete the form and mail to:

**LCHS, PO Box 1642, League City Texas 77574**

## CATEGORY

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/ Active Military | \$20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60 and over)     | \$25  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple            | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single (Individual)      | \$35  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family                   | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Patron        | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership          | \$400 |

## BUSINESS CATEGORY

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Member  | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Partner | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Leader  | \$300 |

*Please update your membership information here:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(For family membership, please include names of family members)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Check if your name, address or email has changed recently.
- Check if you would like to receive your newsletter, meeting minutes and/or meeting notices by email, to help save postage.
- Check if we may list your name and address in our membership directory. This publication will only be distributed to LCHS members and will not be used on our website.

Please Note: Membership is for one year and covers you until January 2023.