



League City Historical Society
League City, Texas



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October 2022

LCHS Newsletter

Diana Dornak, Editor

LCHS October Meeting Thursday, Oct. 27 – 7pm

West Bay Common School Children's Museum
210 North Kansas - League City, Texas



Program:

Finding The Purse, Finding The Family

Our speakers this month will be Sarah Osborne from the City of League City, & our own Richard Lewis who will take you "*behind the scenes*" in the finding and solving, the now famous, little clutch purse under the stage of the old Art Deco 1938 school building. This will be a rare opportunity for you to hear and see exactly how this all came about on those two fateful days, in two different years. You will find a little more on this fascinating story inside.



Welcome New Members!

**Joe and Linda Lamb
Valerie Roberts
Greg Hart**

From the President:



Dear Members & Friends:

After a very hot summer we are all enjoying the beautiful fall weather. It's starting to cool down...and I am looking forward to the events and activities LCCHS has planned for the rest of the 2022.

Several of the popular "Murder & Mayhem" WALKabout's are planned for this month. See the schedule of events on page 4 of this newsletter for dates and times.

Music at the Museum attendance is up and it is so wonderful to see folks enjoying the music, children playing and families having a beautiful evening in the historical area.

And...it's not too early to begin thinking about Christmas in Old League City. Check out our website – leaguecityhistory.org for dates and more information.

Thank You, FAITH & SERVICE
Doug McKee, LCCHS President





The Story of the Lost Purse

Richard Lewis

In 2021 the City of League City started renovating the old 1938 League City School building. This was the only remaining Art Deco commercial structure in the city, and the city was in dire need of more community center space for its' citizens.

As the construction company was removing the floor on the stage in the gymnasium, the worker saw a pink object deep down among some other debris. He said, "it was the only item all day worth saving," so he gave it to the city. At the grand opening of the facility the city invited everyone, including former students to attend, hoping someone might recognize *Beverly Williams* or some of the other pictures contained in the purse. All anyone knew at this point was that it was lost in April 1959, and it belonged to *Beverly Williams*. Finding no success at the grand opening, to broaden the search, the city put out a call to the media on Thursday, October 6, for the unveiling of the purse and its' contents.

This is where we come in. The city asked the League City Historical Society to head up the search to find the owner of the purse. The 10pm news story that evening on KHOU, Ch 11 in Houston seemed to do the trick. For the rest of this fascinating story, come to our October meeting at the Museum and see the ***actual purse and its' contents*** and hear ***the rest of the story***.

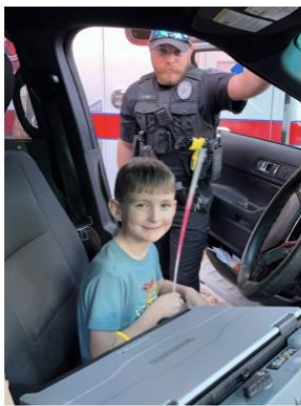


Above: The mystery purse & some of its contents.

Right: Beverly Williams daughters Deborah Hicks, Andrea Sanchez and Rhonda Dohr at the Museum.



See you at the Thursday, October 27 meeting ...



National Night Out at the Museum 2022

Tuesday, October 4th was a beautiful night for National Night Out! As tradition dictates, D&D Pest Control provided the 6 foot Italian Submarine sandwich from Roma's Pizza in League City so everyone, including first responders, was happy about dinner. LCHS members were generous with plates of desserts and our neighbor Craved Creations sent over 2 dozen delicious cupcakes that were quickly gobbled up. Thank you to LCPD, Officer Bay, LCVFD, Station 1 Fire Crew, LCEMS, local EMS crew, and LCFMO for stopping by, introducing yourselves, handing out stickers and goodies, and letting us climb inside vehicles. Great to see the neighbors, LCHS members, and our local First Responders hanging out and committed to strengthening our community.

See you next year for NNO 2023! 🌳🚒🚑🚓🌳





League City Historical Society

Fall/Winter 2022 Schedule



Oct 15th - Punkin' Parade

Oct 15 - WALKabout - Murder & Mayhem

Oct 22 - WALKabout - Murder & Mayhem

Oct 27th - LCHS Meeting

Oct 28th - Music at the Museum

Oct 29 - WALKabout - Murder & Mayhem

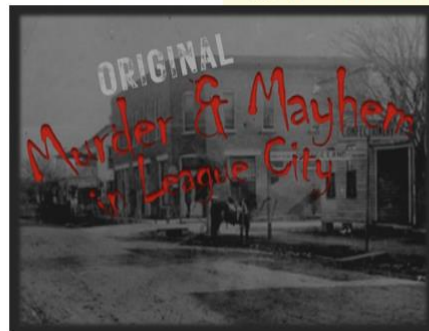
Nov 17th - LCHS Meeting

Nov 25th - Music at the Museum

Dec 10th - Christmas in Old LC

Dec 11th - Christmas in Old LC

Dec 30th - Music at the Museum



For Event details go to the LCHS website - leaguacityhistory.org or follow on Facebook @LeagueCityHistory





Halloween Comes to America

Joyce Zongrone



Did you know that while Halloween came to America with its first colonists, its origins date back 2000 years ago, when the ancient Celts, from Ireland and northern France, celebrated the festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in), their New Year, on November 1?

That day marked the end of the summer, the harvest and the beginning of the cold, dark winter, where scarcities of food, created a time of celebration and superstition. Celts believed that on New Year's Eve, October 31, the boundary between the living and the dead opened. Samhain was the time when the ghosts of the dead came back to earth to cause trouble. On that night the Celtic priests, the Druids, used the presence of the spirits of the netherworld to make future predictions. Prophecies were important to people in an unpredictable world. Huge sacred bonfires were built to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the deities invoking their protection during the harsh winters and to ward off roaming ghosts. Costumes of animal heads and skins were worn and fortunes were told during the celebration.

By the fifth century, the Roman Empire conquered the Celts and combined two of their Roman festivals with Samhain. Feralia was celebrated in late October, commemorating the passing of the dead. The Festival of Pomona, Goddess of Fruit and Trees, originally held in August, probably explains the origins of the modern day bobbing for apples, since the Goddess's symbol was an apple.

In the eighth century, November 1st was observed as the Catholic Feast of All Martyrs Day. By the 9th century, Christianity spread into Celtic lands and gradually merged with and replaced the older Celtic rites. In 1000 A.D., the church would designate All Souls' Day to honor the dead, in an attempt to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a similar church-sanctioned holiday. All Souls Day was celebrated like Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and people dressing up in costumes as saints, angels and devils.

As the New World became colonized, Halloween became limited in New England because of rigid Protestant beliefs, but in Maryland and other

(Halloween Comes To America – Continued)

southern colonies, it became much more common. As more and more ethnic groups arrived and meshed with the Native Americans, the American version of Halloween materialized. Colonial public harvest celebrations emerged where friends and neighbors danced sang, told fortunes and ghost stories.

Halloween really burst into our culture in the early twentieth century when millions of Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine, helped Halloween's popularity by incorporating their Irish and English traditions into our culture. Their custom of dressing up and going from house to house asking for food or money, eventually became our modern-day trick or treating tradition. They also brought with them, the Celtic tradition that evolved into the Jack O'Lantern. The legend tells of Jack, a stingy farmer, who played mean tricks on his family and stole from his friends. When he died, he was sent away from the Pearly Gates by Saint Peter and rejected by the Devil, who also sent him away with only a burning ember to light his journey. Pulling a turnip from his pocket, Stingy Jack carved a hole in it for the ember, creating the Jack O'Lantern.

The newly arrived immigrants were pleased to find a native fruit of North America perfect for continuing this practice: the great pumpkin. It was bigger, softer and easier to carve than the original Irish tubers.

And so these Celtic traditions worked their way into America's melting-pot culture.





Music at the Museum

Mike Peterson

The League City Historical Society, with the support of the League City Folk Association, had the opportunity to hold another amazing Music at the Museum event on Friday, Sept. 30th. The cool weather helped. There was not a cloud in the sky and it was a beautiful evening in the historic district of our once little town.

We want to thank everyone that had the opportunity to attend. As for each event, we continue to grow with more guests joining monthly. Everyone enjoys spending time together listening to the talented musicians.

Parents were able to sit back and learn more of our city's history. We discussed the Scholes home on 2nd street (Scholes International Airport in Galveston) while enjoying some amazing music, as all the children played throughout the grounds of the museum.

As for all the LCHS events, we continue to focus on safety. To support our last event, we had two members volunteer to help with traffic control. While Dan Hart directed vehicles to available parking, Greg Hart was available to help with transportation. We want to thank them both for making a huge difference. Also, we thank our guests for working so close with us to minimize parking issues around the museum. Special thanks to Butler's Courtyard for allowing us to use their parking.

We continue to receive feedback helping the society grow with events that are important to the community. Most recently, there has been interest in seeing more of the West Bay Common School Children's Museum/One Room Schoolhouse.

Based on that feedback, Richard Lewis (VP of the LCHS) offered to open the 1898 schoolhouse for our next musical event. This will be exciting and will allow everyone to step back in time as a student in the late 1800's/early 1900's. As we discussed during earlier events, the schoolhouse was moved to League City in 1992 after previous schools were destroyed. The schoolhouse was fully restored to the original condition including period furniture for the teacher and students.

This is truly something to see.

(Continued on next page.)



Greg Hart helped with transportation.



Dan Hart, directed vehicles to available parking.



("Music at the Museum" Continued from previous page.)



Pictured Left: Everyone enjoyed the music and the evening.

Pictured Below: Just a few of the many talented musicians who played for us at the last event.

And **NOW**...for the Oct 28th **Music at the Museum**,.....we're excited to have the following musicians joining us:

- ❖ Cheryl Cawood
- ❖ Laura Kovacevich
- ❖ Carl Brainerd
- ❖ Mike Sweeney
- ❖ Mike Kiser
- ❖ Tex Renner
- ❖ Angela Guidry
- ❖ Leslie Herweg
- ❖ Tucker Hart
- ❖ Jay Williams
- ❖ Claudia Hammond & Steve Shannon
- ❖ The Nelson Family
- ❖ Reed and Allie Rae
- ❖ Joe Irey Clemons
- ❖ Laura Nicole
- ❖ Tommy Carroll
- ❖ Tom Yount

**Come Join Us!!
We look forward to seeing everyone on Friday, October 28!**



For more information, you can visit:

Leaguecityhistory.org (website)

League City Historical Society (Facebook)

West Bay Common School Children's Museum (Facebook)

League City Folk Association (Facebook)



A great time was had by all at the Punkin' Parade on Saturday, October 15th! Over 30 kids in costume and festive fall attire lined up outside the Barn Museum and paraded down 2nd Street to League Park where the City of League City was hosting Harvest Fest. It was so fun to see the kiddos all dressed up and they loved being in the parade. A highlight for them was getting candy from Mayor Pat as he waived and cheered from Butler's Courtyard.



The parade was sponsored by Mommie Chic and Me and the City of League City. Each participant received a Halloween treat bag that contained a League City coloring book and some fliers. Our friends from The League City Proud Organization were a big help with greeting parade goers and helping us get them registered. This is definitely a fun new tradition for all the kids in League City.



Amber Murphy & Katie Benoit



MAKING MEMORIES



Below are two pictures taken at the Ribbon Cutting and Opening of the League City Community Center (formerly the old League City School) on Kansas Street in League City.



Pictured Above: Tommy and Anthony Baccaro with their car "Flight".



Pictured above: Left to right - Gabrielle Nonmacher, Deborah Gammon and Ronnie Richards checking out one of the wonderful old restored antique cars on display the Ribbon Cutting.

League City Historical Society 2022 Officers



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

2022 Directors

Diana Dornak	Director
Helen Hodges	Director
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Catharin Lewis	Director
Linda Michael	Director
Michael Peterson	Director
Susan Pierce	Director
Ronnie Richards	Director



DUES may be paid online at
leaguecityhistory.org
or just send a check to
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Historical Society
P.O. Box 1642
League City, Tx. 77574
We appreciate your
membership.

