

League City Historical Society

leaguecityhistory.org



May 2007

Newsletter

Calendar

May 31: LCHS Meeting

Speaker: Historian Alecyia Galloway
**Program: "League City, Cattle Town
on the Western Frontier"**

Location: West Bay Common School Children's Museum
210 Kansas Street, League City
Social 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm

June 9: 2nd Annual Old Fashioned Yard Sale

September 29: Oak Tree Festival

October 11: Living History Dinner

October 27: Ghosts of the Past



from the president...

Joanna Sharp

Hello, everyone!

Well, six Confederate veterans resting in our Fairview Cemetery received handsome bronze medallions alongside their personal headstones, in a presentation by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Fort Virginia Point Chapter 2539. The impressive ceremony was headed by League City's Ann Little. Our Society was represented by Joanna Sharp, Ronnie Richards, Nancy Richards, Carole Ragland, Catharin Lewis, and Peggy Fenimore. Photos will be on display at the May meeting.

We have a treat in store for our coming meeting, when Historian Alecyia Galloway will present a program "League City, Cattle Town on the Western Frontier." Alecyia's show will give us more insight into our heritage, in the Longhorn era, and should be delightful! **Please don't miss it.**

Cheryl Johnson, Galveston County's Tax Assessor Collector, was excellent in our April meeting, going over some important tax information for historical home owners and telling us how to protest our coming tax appraisal! We had several visitors who had come just to hear her, and we hope they will come again.

DON'T FORGET---We need your has-been articles for the Yard Sale on June 9th. You may leave your items, pre-priced please, at the home of Richard and Catharin on Memorial Day weekend. Also, please sign up for a short shift as hostess when the sign-up sheet comes to you at our meeting.

We have three new members. They are: Kevin & Nancy Burke and Mary A. Rice. We look forward to having all of you meet them.

See you Thursday, May 31st.

Joanna Sharp



April 26, 2007 Meeting Minutes Sherry Frankovich

Minutes of Meeting
League City Historical Society
April 26, 2007

Joanna Sharp opened the meeting and welcomed members as well as guests.

The program began with the introduction of Cheryl E. Johnson, Tax Assessor Collector for Galveston County who presented a great program regarding property taxes.

Mrs. Johnson provided several brochures and she talked about ways historic homes may be able to get a reduction in taxes which involves opening their home a certain number of days per year to the public. She also talked about options involved when requesting a reduction in property taxes.

The program ended and the regular meeting was resumed. The minutes for the March 2007 meeting were discussed. Kathy Weisskopf motioned we accept the minutes as presented with a second by Kathie Nenninger. All voted in favor.

Diana Dornak gave the Treasurer's Report. It was approved as presented.

Diane Gillette presented a report from the Endowment Committee. She said we have received two grants and that funds will be used for the Hands on History Program, Museum Renovation, and Parking Lot Expansion.

Catharin Lewis reported for West Bay Common School. She gave the total received for program fees, gift shop sales, donations and walk-ins for the month. She stated that 684 persons came through the school this month.

Debra Gammon reported that she is working on the histories for this year's Ghost of the Past". She stated that they are using the children of the veterans used in last year's program as the honoree's for this years event.

Joanna Sharp said that she will be asking for a report from the Historic Commission and the Butler Longhorn Museum so that our members will be informed of what's going on with these two entities.

It was stated that the Yard Sale will take place June 9 at the Lewis'. Catharin Lewis urged everyone to clean house and donate lots of items for the sale.

Catharin Lewis gave a report on the Membership Yearbook. She asked everyone to make sure all dues are paid so all members can be listed and that we need to sell ads. The deadline was moved to May 15.

Joanna Sharp introduced Tim Paulissen. She said he has offered us a feature space in a publication he publishes. She said Fay Dudney will be making a list of historical questions to be used and for everyone to get us tidbits of historical data also.

Joanna Sharp reported that the Board of Directors voted to postpone the Garden Tour and to ask the League City Garden Cub to co-sponsor this event with us in 2008. She also mentioned that she had heard from the Heritage Society and that they were agreeable to our doing the historic home tour. It is to be a bi-annual event.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



MusNews

**Catharin Lewis
Curator/Director**

The school year is fast coming to a close and it has been very busy at the Museum. We have held 32 schoolhouse sessions in April and 21 sessions thus far in May. Eight hundred forty-five children, teachers, visitors and staff visited the Museum in April and five hundred sixteen staff and visitors have come so far in May. The groups traveled from Dickinson, Galveston, Houston, Kingwood, Lake Jackson, League City, Liberty, Pasadena, Pearland, Sugarland and Richwood.

We brought \$2,177.00 in program fees and \$1,773.25 in gift shop sales in April. May has been unusual so far in that, we brought \$1,242 in program fees and \$1,239.25 in gift shop sales. A majority of the Museum expenses for the two months has been restocking the gift shop and staff. Richard and I spent four hours one Saturday trimming the trees so you can now see the

schoolhouse and buses can park without a problem. Our maintenance list is long and our free time has been limited. We will continue to go down our list and make progress in the necessary repairs.

We wish to thank Ralph and Patsy Shipp, Malcom and Judy Waugh and Peggy Fenimore for the recent donations to our collection. We acquired two cameras for the collection from Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Shipp of North Carolina. One is a Brownie Box camera and the other is Ansco in a leather case. We also received a collection of books from Malcolm and Judy Waugh, friends of Tommy and Sherry Frankovich. We wish to thank these individuals for their support of the Museum Program and the addition of these items to our collection. We want to thank Tommy and Sherry Frankovich for making the book donation possible. We also received a school desk chair, Galveston Beach chair and a rocker from the Dick family from Peggy Fenimore to be added to our collection. These items need some repair but we hope to have them ready soon for display.

The YARD Sale is set for June 9 from 8AM – 3 PM at 1518 East Walker.

We need you to bring your donations Memorial Day weekend or the week of June 4th. Please price your items to help with the process. We still need a few more volunteers. Please call if you can help for a two-hour shift either Friday for set-up or Saturday, June 9th. We plan to have fun like last year and hope for another successful event. Save the date and come.



Second Annual Old Fashioned Yard Sale

Saturday, June 9th 8am to 3pm
@ the home of Richard & Catharin Lewis
1518 East Walker, League City

Donated items may be dropped off on Memorial Day weekend at 1518 East Walker or any weeknight up until June 7th. Please try to price items or group in boxes according to price. We will again be needing help to organize, set-up and clean-up for this fund raising project. Thank you for your support in any way you can help through donation or time.

From The Endowment Chairman Diane Gillette

The Endowment Committee met and reviewed the status of grant applications on Thursday, May 17. currently, there are six outstanding grant requests and seven to ten grant requests under review for submittal. The Endowment committee will convene again in August.



League City Historic District Commission Report to the League City Historical Society

Fay Dudney
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC

At the League City Historic Commission meeting April 19, 2007 held at the Arolfo Civic Center, the commission took action on the following requests:

- Cingular Wireless' request (1010 E. Main) to lower an existing sign to ground level was approved with the condition that the existing sign be internally lit as required by the Historic District Preservation Plan.
- A Certificate of Appropriateness was granted to Nelson Thomas to construct a wheel chair ramp at his residence at 612 - 4th Street.
- Approved a wall sign and street sign permit request for main Street Hair Studio, 815-B East main.
- Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for an Operations Permit to establish a restaurant at 602 East Main, "The Jazz House Restaurant" was approved. A wall sign for the building and a sign to permit parking in rear mounted on the street sign were approved.

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD

Joanna Sharp	President
Ronnie Richards	Vice President
Diana Dornak	Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich	Secretary
Diane Kerkhove	Corresponding Secretary
Diane Gillette	Board Member
Richard Lewis	Board Member
Carole Ragland	Board Member
Kathie Nenninger	Board Member
Kathy Weisskopf	Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis	Museum Director



Spotlight Around Galveston County

Fay Dudney

Did You Know about the....

Galveston County Poor Farm Cemetery

Nestled quietly near the Southwest corner of Walter Hall Park neath the shade of old oak trees is a small cemetery. The land was set aside by the Galveston County Commissioners Court in 1886 to provide a burial plot for any of the poor farm residents who wished to be buried there. J.Levy Bros. Funeral Home of Galveston contracted with the Court to bury the dead for \$3.50 per burial.

But who are the dead who rest neath the old oaks? No tombstones remain. Funeral home records were destroyed in a fire. Could one grave be the old Confederate soldier who requested to remain on the farm when it closed in 1913? We may never know who sleeps in the small cemetery that was once enclosed with a yaupon hedge.

The cemetery is marked with an iron fence and an informational kiosk. A meditation bench beckons visitors to pause and ponder the mysteries of our past and enjoy the quietness of the presence.



Remember to save the dates on your calendar, this fall, for the Living History Dinner and Ghosts of the Past events. These events are unique and great fun!



Live Oak Tree Registry Report

Kathy Weisskopf

We have registered 285 live oak trees in League City! We need only 15 more to reach our initial goal of registering at least 300 live oak trees within the city limits, and measuring them by the standards of the American Tree Registry. If you have a live oak that hasn't yet been registered, we'd love to hear from you. As soon as we have 15 more, we will print our registry book! Call Fay Dudney at 281-332-1382, for an application.

A Special Welcome To Our New Members

Kevin & Nancy Burke

Mary A. Rice