



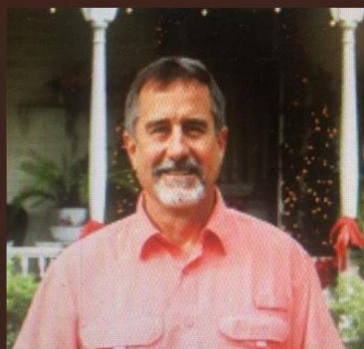
January - June 2025 Newsletter

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Dive into the thrilling world of the West Bay Common School Museum's most fascinating treasures! Wait until the end to see the unassuming artifact that founders Richard and Catharin Lewis hold dearest from the collection.



President's Message

By: Mike Peterson,

President of the League City Historical Society

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the beautiful Texas summer weather. The League City Historical Society has been active with many new projects as we continue to work on preserving and protecting the history of League City, TX.

To start, I want to first apologize for the delay of this newsletter. In the background we have been assembling a new team to help with a few stories, a little history and several exciting updates. With the support from Sarah Eubanks, Richard Lewis, Maranda Hart, Katie Benoit and others, we are prepared for future releases. We'll review programs that have been implemented over the last few

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months. For example, the Oak Tree Registry with the support of Julie Massey and members of the LC Garden Club. We had the opportunity to meet with the LC's Arborist, Heather McNight, while she shared the critical measurements for these historic trees. We started by measuring the Ghirardi tree in Ghirardi Family Water Smart Park off Louisiana Ave. With the new tools, we can now understand the growth over the last decade. There is more to come as the program continues to gain momentum with other iconic oak trees scheduled to be measured soon.

On June 14th we had another successful White Linen Night event. It was the largest crowd we've seen at the museum. We estimate over 1,000 people stopped in to visit and catch up on their LC history. What a great way to come together as a community during a hot day with a little music, beautiful antique cars, cold refreshments and some delicious Good Humor Ice Cream served by our own Richard Lewis. We want to thank all our volunteers that were with us to support this special annual event.

Back on April 26th, the League City Historical Society partnered with the LC Folk Association and the City of League City for a unique experience celebrating three incredible achievements. The evening started by recognizing the 3-year anniversary for Music in the Historic District. Then the City of League City received a certification from the Office of the Texas Governor (Texas Music Office) for being a Music Friendly Texas Certified Community. The 3rd award received was to celebrate League Park for being named a Lone Star Legacy Park by the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS). What a special evening.

I wanted to also acknowledge Catharin and Richard Lewis for the gracious donation of a Gulbransen player piano. Due to costly repairs with the previous player piano, it needed to be replaced. As we all know, everyone enjoys watching these 100-year-old pianos play. So many memories over the years. Catharin and Richard found and purchased this historic piano in Spring, TX and donated it to the museum. Once again as children attend the West Bay School Children's Museum education program, they can experience the magical effects of this pneumatic and mechanical marvel.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation for the partnership with the City of League City's Convention and Visitors Bureau. With their support, we will continue to open the League City Historical Society to all the enthusiasts visiting the Historic District. Between Maranda Hart and Emma Halliburton, they are always prepared to offer custom tours for our guests every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Please visit the website for updated hours at <https://leaguecityhistory.org/>

Snow Day to Start off 2025



Do you know what this is?



You can find the answer when you see this picture again near
the end of this newsletter!

League City Nonprofit Expo 2025

Great turn-out at the League City Nonprofit Expo this year! So many incredible worth-while organizations that give so much to our community. We were happy to participate and enjoyed meeting everyone who stopped by our booth. Thank you, League City!



Message from the Schoolmarm

By: Sarah Eubanks

Director of Education

Just a quick note to the Society about goings on in the Schoolhouse over the Summer. In short, school is still in session!

After another amazing White Linen Night event brought hundreds of people into the Schoolhouse one late, sultry afternoon, two of these guests, Kristie and Katie, were especially curious about the award-winning program as potential Schoolmarms-to-be. Since then, they have even taken the next step of observing a class field trip full of happy children here one morning last week.

I'm pleased to report their enthusiasm for the program. They will be spending the summer learning the Schoolhouse script. These ladies are in good company joining our other two Schoolmarms-in-Training. It is my privilege to also introduce here: Maranda and Debbie.

Dear readers, please get the word out that the Schoolhouse is actively hiring college graduates with a love for teaching guests of all ages in a lovely historic setting. We are indeed "old school" with zero technology! Please enquire at our email site of: LeagueCityTXHistory@gmail.com or call (281) 554 – 2994.

Book Signing at The Museum

"Galveston County, Texas: A Narrative and Pictorial History" is out now! We had a lovely book signing at the Barn Museum. It was a night of cheese, wine, and history! We have copies here at the museum for purchase, cost is a \$50 donation to the Galveston County Historical Commission. Get yours while supplies last!





UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with repairs!

BRIDGE



HANDICAP RAMP

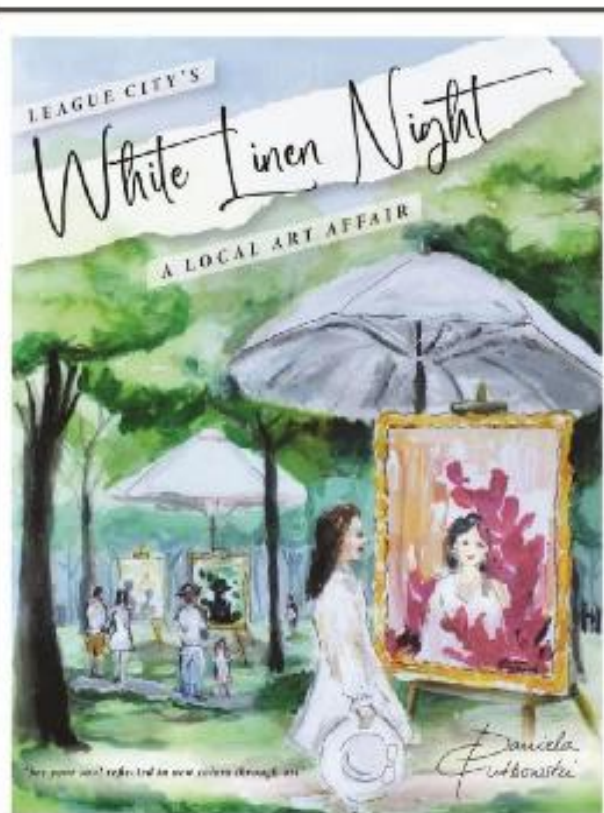
Thank you to the Citymark Church for helping with the beautiful handicap ramp. All materials and labor were provided by them. We appreciate your dedication to our One Room Schoolhouse and the local community.



MUSEUM SIGN

Thank you to The Sign Shop, who extensively repaired, repainted, and remounted our sign.





MUSIC IN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT: League City Folk Association

By: Rachel Hart

Cofounder of LCFA & Music in the Historic District

The golden hour of sunset bestowed its beauty on us once again. The park is magical when you watch the sunset pass behind Walding Station with live music dancing through the historic oak trees. Another beautiful, relaxing night. A huge thanks to everyone who came out! Truly the best audience as always! You may not know it, but we have heard by so many that y'all are the audience to play for. You have no idea the cups you are filling by just showing up.

Pickin' circles are growing! Love to see that!!

Thank you, League City Historical Society, for bringing history alive! We loved Maranda & Emma's story about the history of White Linen in Louisiana. Don't forget to come by West Bay Common School Children's Museum and Barn Museum on Kansas St for a free tour and see the vintage white linen on display! Tours are Thursdays & Fridays 1-5 and Saturdays 10-2.

Thank you, League City Parks and Recreation, for the use of the park and always keeping it so beautiful.

Thank you, City of League City Government for helping us keep this event safe and well-advertised.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers who show up and help every month. Couldn't do it without you!

Thank you to all of the musicians who volunteered a set! Your continued support is why we are able to do what we do.

We can't forget Soul freak Café - Thank you for staying open late! I know that's a long day for you all. We appreciate it. We always announce a few different times during the show to go support you guys.





The New Player Piano

Our original Conway player piano lasted for 30 years as an example of “parlor entertainment” in the outside portion of our school house program. It was played twice each day when a class was in session at the museum and when other visitors came. With well over 125,000 registered visitors, as well as walk-ins that is quite a few songs. I would say it did its job very well.



Being quite an attraction at our museum, and with White Linen Night coming soon, we felt that it needed to be replaced rather quickly. Luckily a good quality one was found in Spring, Texas. Mike Peterson, Dave Hake, Richard & Catharin Lewis got it. More on the new piano in future newsletters. It is quite a story.

It was ready for White Linen Night



Did You Know?

By: Richard Lewis

Vice President of the League City Historical Society



We have been asked over the years what is the most important or valuable item in the Museum? That is subjective, but we usually answer “the brick from Sam Houston’s home”. We have the provenance tracing it back to his summer home in Chambers County where our schoolhouse came from. As a matter of fact, the Fisher family that now owns Sam Houston’s summer homestead site and

donated the brick, was the same family that originally built our little schoolhouse in 1898. They owned very large tracts of land in that area.

Another interesting fact about this brick is that when Sam Houston was building this home, he had them get the bricks from the old Fort Anahuac site: The fort was built in 1831 by the Mexican government to control trade, immigration and enforce the laws. It was later abandoned and fell into ruin, with Texian settlers, like Sam Houston, using the bricks for building materials. Chambers County acquired the property in 1946 and buried the remaining rubble for safety reasons. The site is now a Chambers County Park.

When you look closely at the brick you can clearly see the “straw” marks all around it. Straw is added to “mud” bricks, to improve their strength and durability. The straw acts as a binder, helping the clay to hold together, and also allows the bricks to dry more evenly, preventing cracks. When you look at our brick, you can see a very solid, crack free brick, especially considering it is approaching 200 years old.

League City’s brick works at the end of Kansas Avenue also made “mud” bricks, but since they did not use straw, those bricks are particularly prone to breakage.