From The President

Dear LCHS Members & Friends,

Well...another summer has gone by. Even though we were unable to schedule WBCS classes and some of our usual other events, --we were still able to have activities such as WALKabouts, and we continued working on projects such as a new roof on the barn museum. “Thank you” to all who helped out.

As we continue into fall and holiday season, --a schedule of activities has already been planned. Don’t miss our National Night Out on Tues. Oct. 5. See details in this newsletter or go online and tour our website, leaguecityhistory.org.

We appreciate all our members and hope you will continue to support LCHS. Please continue to be careful and be safe.

Thank you, FAITH AND SERVICE,
Doug McKee, President

REMEMBER WHEN IN 2002....... 
..................Ernest Randall, President of League City Historical Society along with Richard Lewis and Curator, Catharin Lewis, held a meeting at the museum to discuss plans for an exhibit and open house that was being planned.

Ernie passed away recently. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

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Fairview Cemetery has 32 WWI veterans interred within its fence. One of those WWI veterans is Karl Abrams in Block 11. When I was doing research on World War I a few years ago, I discovered that Karl had a twin brother, Fred Pike Abrams who had also served in the Great War.

Karl E. and Fred P. Abrams were born 19 February 1885 in Atlanta, Georgia to Matthew and Elizabeth Pike Abrams. Between 1910 and 1920, the family relocated to League City, Galveston County, Texas.

Karl Abrams enlisted in the U. S. Navy on 18 June 1917. Fred Abrams enlisted 19 April 1917 at the Navy Yard in Charleston, South Carolina, just 17 days after the United States declared war on Germany. Fred served as a ship’s cook; 2nd class. Karl served as an engineman; 1st Class.

Karl E. Abrams has a Veterans Administration marker in Fairview Cemetery on the banks of Clear Creek at the end of N. Kansas St. in League City.

Fred Pike Abrams was buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston. I used “Lakeview Cemetery book” at Clayton Genealogical Library in Houston. “Fred Pike Abrams 38 years old; d. 4 Nov 1924 Funeral Home, F. P. Malloy & Son; buried 5 Nov 1924; GRAVE # 871.” After this discovery, I began trying to get Fred P. Abrams a Veterans Administration marker. Not an easy feat. There are many parameters governing who can order a stone from the Veterans Administration. At the time that I began my quest, one rule was, a next of kin had to sign the request. Fred never married and I began the search for the descendants of his twin brother to sign the papers.

Good news, the VA changed the rules about a year ago and the owner of the cemetery can now request a marker for a known veteran.

That is when Andrew Farrant entered the picture. He is a senior at Awty International School in Houston who has been conducting Wreaths Across America in Lakeview Cemetery for the past 2 years. He was enlisted to take the application to Lakeview for the owner to sign and request the marker. Everything was accomplished and Fred Pike Abrams received his marker.
Veterans Administration on August 22, 2021. My husband and I set the marker recently. I met Andrew and his mother at Lakeview to have our picture taken with Fred’s marker. Only took 97 years. I could not have done this without Andrew. Better late than never.

Left: Deborah Gammon and Andrew Farrant by grave of Fred Pike Abrahms who now has a marker on his grave at Lakeview Cemetery in Galveston, Texas.

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It’s backkkkkk...by popular demand!

Murder & Mayhem
In League City
October 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd
Starting 10 am at the Museum

**Wanting to volunteer for this WALKabout? Contact Katie at leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com

*** Check out all our events at LeagueCityHistory.org
The League City Historical Society invites you to our neighborhood

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, October 5th
6:00 to 8:00 PM
210 N. Kansas,
Historic League City

We will have drinks and treats but feel free to bring a dessert to share. Visits by League City’s finest Police / Fire / EMS!
This is open to all Historic District residents and businesses as well as League City Historical Society Members.
Walk/bike/golfcart over, bring your kids/grandkids, bring a lawn chair and spend the evening enjoying our wonderful neighborhood!

Email leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com if you would like to donate or help out!

Remember when......in 2002 these LCHS volunteers worked on a rug exhibit. Left to right: Geri Gatlin, Fay Dudney, Frankie Blansit and Sherry Frankovich.
Renaissance in the Garden

Enjoy this self-guided tour of six beautiful League City gardens and a local private historical site, all of which came back to life after February’s big freeze. Each garden is unique; with landscaping ranging from the fancy to the fun, vegetable gardens to peaceful retreats. You will see the love and artistry of local homeowners’ partnerships with Nature.

Saturday, September 25, 2021
10am - 4pm, rain or shine

Tickets with tour map are just $15 and available at
Nana's Attic, 501 East Main in Founder's Square, League City
Visit us on Facebook or contact us
leaguecitygardenclub.org • leaguecitygardenclub@gmail.com

The League City Garden Club is a 501(C)(3) non profit and one of League City’s oldest all-volunteer organizations. All Garden Walk proceeds are donations toward our scholarship, education, conservation, beautification and civic projects.
**Canoes, Horses and a Bridge**

by Joyce Zonegrone

Before the automobile, dugouts, horses, a bridge and a railroad transported League City settlers.

With modern day freeways and state roads at our disposal, one tends to forget that transportation in our area began, thousands of years ago along the northern border of League City on Clear Creek at a Karankawa camp, with dugout canoes. The canoes were spacious and carried entire families and their household belongings in the shallow waters between the islands and the mainland. Clear Lake has a maximum depth of twelve feet and Galveston Bay 9 feet.

In the 16th century, when the Spaniards introduced horses, the Karankawas kept their own herds along the coast.

In 1839, the John Robert Derrick family managed their 640 acres on the south side of Clear Creek on horseback.

The 1854, the Butlers, Cowards and Perkins also ran their ranches on horseback.

Three years later in 1857, the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad, GH&H, was completed from Virginia Point connecting Galveston to Houston through League City.

In July 1895, the people of League City were “considerably worried over the prospects of getting a bridge across Clear Creek,” according to *Galveston Daily News*.

A year later, C.O. Horton, an agent of the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, announced plans for the Clear Creek Bridge to the Galveston County Surveyor and to County Commissioner Westerlage.

By the beginning of December 1896, “cars of iron material” began arriving. Two months later, in February 1897, County Inspector B.A. Smalley was paid $37.50 to inspect the bridge. It connected Webster and Houston to the north to League City and Galveston to the south, linking the main road between Houston and Galveston for 143 years until its demolition in 1939.

*Google Earth* Historical Aerial Views, December 30, 1944, show Old Galveston Road in Webster as a 1.76-mile road that led to a bridge over Clear Creek, connecting to Kansas Street in League City.

(Continued on next page.)
For 143 years, the main route between Galveston and Houston crossed over the Old Clear Creek Bridge at the end of North Kansas Street bordering Fairview Cemetery.

Note: All photos, except the GOOGLE Earth aerial view, are from the Portal to Texas History.

Left: Three women near the bridge at the end of Kansas Street.

Above: Old Galveston Road via the old Clear Creek Bridge.

Above: Clear Creek Bridge Fairview Cemetery - Memorial Day 1911.

(Continued on next page.)
Above: This August 1939 photo is of Chester Knight, father of Mrs. Zonnie Knight Kilgore, wife of T.A. Kilgore, pioneer League City merchant, fishing in a rowboat on the banks of Clear Creek in League City. The bridge in the background is Clear Creek Bridge; it was once the connection between Galveston County to Harris County. It was demolished in 1939.
Remember when...........

Charlotte Henson helped by sanding window sills as we began the restoration of our newly acquired school house. See more details in attached article below.

The JC League House in Galveston is being restored. Here is a hyperlink to watch progress of the grand old house as it is being restored.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-1RbfGtI_o&t=74s
Dear Friends,

LCHS will be having a booth at the Holiday In The Park Celebration in League Park on December 3rd, 4th & 5th.

We need all of our wonderful cookie and fudge makers to have a heads up on this date! In the past, we have sold packaged cupcakes, cookies and gingerbread also so if you would rather purchase those instead of baking....that’s great too!

This is a fund raiser for the League City Historical Society. I will need help with the manning of the booth and will be scheduling volunteers for 2 hr. shifts.

Looking forward to working with all of you on this really fun and festive, festival!

Catherine Gill, 832-673-5531  
Cath_scott_gill@yahoo.com
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**

- Student/ Active Military $20
- Senior (60 and over) $25
- Senior Couple $35
- Single (Individual) $35
- Family $50
- Supporting Patron $100
- Life Membership $400

**BUSINESS CATEGORY**

- Business Member $100
- Business Partner $200
- 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.*