

League City Historical Society

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leaguecityhistory.org

June 2009 Newsletter

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June 25 Meeting...

A priestly celebration with Monsignor Eugene Cargill and an historical visit to Old St. Mary's Church with Ed Linck

Celebrating 50 years in the priesthood, Monsignor Eugene Cargill will charm us with his stories at our June LCHS meeting that will be held at St. Mary's Mission Church on Main Street.

Archbishop Emeritus Joseph A. Fiorenza who knows Monsignor Eugene Cargill well said, "For 50 years, Gene Cargill has served the people of Galveston and the mainland with priestly zeal and utter fidelity. In different parishes of this area, he is strongly loved for his pastoral style of friendliness, availability and compassion."

Monsignor Cargill is the only cleric presently serving in Galveston County to hold the title of Monsignor.

Additionally, Ed Linck, founder and President of the Kemah Historical Society will enlighten us on the renovation and restoration of the 99 year old, St. Mary's Mission Church.

Calendar



June 25, 2009 – Rev. MSGR. Cargill
with Ed Linck

at Old St. Mary's Catholic Church
620 E Main Street, League City

Reminder: There will be no July LCHS
Meeting

July 4, 2009 – Teddy Bear Parade



from the president...

Ronnie Richards

Summer is upon us and the temperature went from pleasant to HOT in a matter of only a few days. Our speaker for the May meeting couldn't make it at the last minute so we were honored to have as our speaker Jim Mulberry, who told us all about the Hubble telescope, a very timely topic since the shuttle was at the telescope making repairs.

VERY IMPORTANT – our next meeting will be held at Old St. Mary's Catholic Church on Main Street. We are featuring Father Cargill as he celebrates his 50th year in the priesthood. In addition Ed Linck will bring us a presentation on the renovation and restoration of this beautiful church which is 99 years old this year. Please tell your friends about this meeting, which is Thursday night June 25.

Heather McKnight has joined the City of League City as Arborist. She has an interest in the Society's Oak Tree Registration project and how that might be tied into the city's efforts to educate the citizens about the value of trees and to encourage the preservation and protection of trees. Kathy Weisskopf, Faye Dudney and I had the pleasure of having lunch with her and sharing information about the project.

We want to thank our always dependable Richard Lewis and Gene Teets for their work project to redirect the rainwater to the new storm water system. Our organization is staffed by volunteers and without everyone's efforts we wouldn't be around long.



April 30, 2009 Meeting Minutes Sherry Frankovich

Ronnie Richards welcomed guests and members to the monthly meeting. Richard Lewis introduced the speaker, Jim Mulberry. Jim told us about the Hubble telescope. He showed us slides of pictures that it had taken of space, which were very interesting. The Hubble is very accurate and produces 6 CD-ROMs a day.

Ronnie began the business meeting by approving the printed minutes of last meeting. Catharin Lewis said the Museum report was also printed in the newsletter. Diane Gillette told us about a visit from Houston Endowment to our Museum. We have applied for a grant from them. She interviewed Catharin and did see a need for the Museum extension, which would store the artifacts.

Richard invited everyone to the workday at the Museum on Saturday from 9-12. We need to fix the drainage problem.

Teddy Bear Parade is scheduled for July 4. We need many volunteers.

Next meeting will be on June 25.

Schoolhouse air conditioner is not working well. Bob's Air Conditioning Co. is going to replace it.

Greg Nenninger is working on the website.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 P.M.

MusNews

Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

Catharin Lewis is attending the Annual One Room Schoolhouse Conference.



2009 Historic Homes Tour Meeting
Thursday, July 16 - 10am
Diana Dornak's Home
1013 Texas Ave., League City
Lunch will be served at 11am

This first important meeting will focus on a line-up of proposed sites for the Sat Dec 12 Homes Tour. Anyone who is interested in working on our Home Tour for this year is welcome to attend.

Please email Diana if you plan to attend so she will know how many to expect. diana.dornak1@verizon.net
Hope to see you there.



This month, the Museum electricity bill was covered by a donation from **Dr. Bill and Lori High**. During the spring, summer and fall, we have donation opportunities to cover grounds keeping expenses.



Additionally, the month of July's lawn maintenance is being covered by a donation from **Kathie and Garet Nenninger**.

If you would like to help support the Museum in this tangible way, please feel free to contact Catharin Lewis at 281-554-2994.

A Special Welcome to Our New Members

Susan A. Pierce and Jane McFaddin



We thank ...

Joanna Sharp and Sherry Frankovich for providing refreshments for our June meeting.

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD

Ronnie Richards	President
Kevin Burke	Vice-President
Diana Dornak	Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich	Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf	Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen	Board Member
Diane Gillette	Board Member
Richard Lewis	Board Member
Doug McKee	Board Member
Carole Ragland	Board Member
Joanna Sharp	Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis	Museum Director

League City Historic District Commission Report

LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC... **Fay Dudney**

Meeting May 21, 2009

Approved at Public Hearing a request to expand and existing residence at 114 7th Street approximately 555 square feet.

Conditionally approved a request to waive the requirement of a church at 1026 E. Main provide a 20-foot wide landscape buffer along the interior lot lines with the condition that a continuous line of shrubs be installed along the northern property line and that the shrub species be selected from the Architectural Guidelines recommended plant list.

Approved a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a business registration permit of a church at 1026 E. Main Street.

Denied implementing the electronic distribution of Historic District Commission meeting packets and continue with the delivery of paper packets to commission members. The Commission requested updates on the proposed agenda software being purchased for the City should they want to readdress the issue if staff were to begin using the software for Commission Meetings.

Administratively approved three sign permits for businesses at 1015 and 1015A and 812 East Main Street. Also approved two business registration permits at 1015 and 1015A East Main Street.



Old League City

Historic District Commission members attended a combined workshop of City council members, Planning and Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Economic Development Foundation, 4- Industrial Corp and the League City Historic District Commission, Tuesday June 16th at Butler's Courtyard.

Each chairman presented the function and goals of their commission or board. Question and answer periods followed each presentation.

Listen for more news about 55 mile connecting hike and bike trails within the City; a new gym, swimming pool and sports facilities for soccer, etc.; formation of an Improvement District and identification signs for the Historic District.



Text of the Texas Historical Commission Marker at St. Mary Mission Church League City, Texas

Beginning in the late 19th century, League City's Catholic residents gathered in homes for Mass and other services. As the population grew, so did the need for a church. J.C. League deeded land to the Diocese of Galveston, and parishioners of St. Mary Mission Church built a frame sanctuary that served them for many years after its dedication in December 1910. The Diocese appointed the Rev. Jerome A. Rapp (1881-1952), who conducted Mass for the Catholic residents before 1910, as the mission church's first pastor. He served both this church and other mainland missions. St. Mary Mission Church served as a social center of the community from early in its history. During the Great Depression, the church began the Mainland Catholic Picnic as a means of reducing debt. It quickly became a popular community-wide activity, lasting for many years. As the decades passed, the League City congregation continued to grow, especially as the nearby Johnson Space Center rapidly expanded during the latter twentieth century. The church moved into a new and larger building, dedicating it in 1966. Meanwhile, the old mission was used only occasionally for church functions, although several organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, often met there. In the late twentieth century, parishioners organized to relocate and restore the former mission church building. Today, the Gothic Revival structure is the only extant example of the original mainland missions.