



# LEISURE WORLD NEWS

Thursday  
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Janine Swiatkowski/*The News*

Marge Williams is comfortably at home, in her second home at the Leisure World Historical Society where she is the archivist.

## Archivist preserves community history

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

Investigating and learning about the past - her own, the nation's and the world's - has been a lifelong obsession for Marjorie Williams.

Since 1630, the Williams family has helped shape the history of America with its teachers, preachers, workers, soldiers and doctors.

Now William is shaping Leisure World's history as the archivist for the Historical Society. And for October, the Society has selected her as its Leisure Worlder of the Month.

"She's simply amazing - and has so many abilities and capabilities, making order of Leisure World's history," says the society's former president Harry Schwartz.

Another former society president, Tom Gaylor, adds that Williams is a lady of "immense character whose qualities stand out - Leisure World is fortunate to have Marge as a resident."

Current President Evelyn Shopp adds that the society is extremely lucky to have her preserving Leisure World's past for future generations. "Anything you want, she can find it."

**Background** Williams, a 10th generation American,

hails from La Grange, Texas where she founded the city and Fayette County's archives.

She notes that, although her mother once commented  
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### Ceremony facts

**Who:** Marjorie Williams  
**What:** Leisure Worlder of the Month for October  
**When:** 10 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 6  
**Where:** Clubhouse 6  
**Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society

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# ARCHIVIST

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on the fact that family history went back to pre-Revolutionary War days, that busy lady didn't have the time to bother about it.

Recalls Williams, surviving the Depression was a full time occupation for her father, a clerk, and mother, who not only taught school and raised eight children but kept a vegetable garden, learned to milk a cow, was active in her church and community and grew flowers with unflappable spirit, patience and aplomb.

"She could do everything well and was at ease in any situation," recalls Williams fondly.

And, admiring her supermom, Williams followed suit.

But in her case, although she married and raised a family, taught, practiced law, worked at a radio station and held jobs with Eastern Airlines, Merrill Lynch and World Wide Travel Agency, she pursued an interest in history, both past and in-the-making.

"It's so interesting reading about what happened in the past and who was important . . . I think knowing about our background helps us in the present as well."

The graduate of the University of Texas at Austin (where she earned bachelor's, master's and law degrees - the latter at age 60), was on state committees for the Texas State Historical Society, was co-chairman of the Fayette County Historical Commission, founded the La Grange chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was a member of the United Daugh-

ters of the Confederacy and Colonial Dames and claims to be the first woman trader on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

For this work she won numerous certificates, awards and gifts including the title of a Daughter of the Republic of Texas.

After moving to Leisure World in 1994, she joined the local chapter of the DAR, the American Association of University Women, the Community Association, the College Club, the MacUsers Group and Historical Society not to mention continuing her ties with Delta Kappa Gamma.

She said when she came to Leisure World she offered her services to the Historical Society as soon as she learned the community had one.

The society quickly recognized they had a jewel as she dug in and on-computer proceeded to classify the thousands of photographs, club files, newspaper clippings, videos, slides, portraits and memorabilia in the society's collection - from the oldest, pre-historic fossils, to the newest, Leisure World's role in the creation of the City of Laguna Woods.

Williams also fought to make sure the Historical Society's new digs beside the Leisure World Library were climate-controlled to preserve the archives for no less than 300 years.

In spite of all her activities and honors, however, Williams says her greatest successes are her children - three of whom are doctors.

As for her own personal accomplishments, Williams singles out her "willingness to serve and to accomplish things."