

# HOUSTON LAKER

July 2021 Edition

Conner Anderson, a guest of Teresa Olson and Landen Kemple, won the 2021 Houston Lake Fishing Tournament, hosted by Venetians Gardens HOA. The fish was a largemouth bass weighing 1 pound and measuring 12.5 inches.



The 75th Anniversary of Houston Lake Homes Association picnic was a great success.



We had people from all around the lake who visited with one another.



Our Mayor Chuck Stone and Laura



Our great Cook Joe



## Fishing Tournament 6-5-2021 from 7am to 3pm Saturday.

Conner Anderson, a guest of Teresa Olson and Landen Kemple, won the 2021 Houston Lake Fishing Tournament, hosted by Venetians Gardens HOA. The fish was a largemouth bass weighing 1 pound and measuring 12.5 inches.



Photos by Kerry Hallowell of the HOA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration picnic June 5, 2021



The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Houston Lake Homes Association picnic was a great success. We have people from all around the Lake who visited with one another. Photos by Mary Head June 5, 2021



Mama & baby deer 5-28-2021 photo by Mary Head



Photos from Rick DeLaFuente 6-23-2021



# July Community Calendar Events

## July 4<sup>th</sup> - Houston Lake 21<sup>st</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pet Show, Bike Parade and Picnic



- 10:00am Pet Show at the Mayor's Park
- 10:30am Kids Bike Parade at the Mayor's Park
- 12:00pm Pot Luck Lunch at City Hall
- 2:00pm Lip Syncing Contest at City Hall



July 6<sup>th</sup> - Trash pickup

July 12<sup>th</sup> - City Council Meeting, 7:30pm - City Hall

July 20<sup>th</sup> - Recycling day and trash pickup

July 21<sup>st</sup> - Venetian Gardens Homes Association meeting, 7:00pm - City Hall

July 31<sup>st</sup> - Art, Life & Folks Houston Lake Arts Circle: Registration form due

Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> - Art Delivery Date at City Hall: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show Exhibit at City Hall: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

\* \* \* \* \*

### Water test taken around the Beach Area

Great Plains Analytical Laboratory tested a water sample extracted around the Beach area of Houston Lake on Tuesday June 22, 2021. The water sample was analyzed for E. coli. Results conclude that Houston Lake is safe for swimming.

**E. Coli (water) = 30\***

\*If the geometric mean of the water quality sample results does not exceed the equivalent of 190 E. coli colonies the conditions are safe for swimming. Children under 14 years of age require Adult supervision when using the beach area. This is a State Law. Venetian Gardens Homes Association



# **Fireworks**

**Section 210.680 of the Houston Lake Municipal Code states:**

**It shall be unlawful for any person to use or discharge any “bottle rockets”.**

**It shall be unlawful for any person to use, ignite or discharge any fireworks within the public right of way of any public street.**

**Fireworks may only be used, ignited or discharged at the following times and dates:**

**1. From 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. each day during the period of June twenty-sixth (26) until July second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and on July fifth (5<sup>th</sup>); and**

**2. From 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. (midnight) each day on July third (3<sup>rd</sup>) and July fourth (4<sup>th</sup>).**

**No person shall have in his/her possession Division 1.3 (formerly class “B”) fireworks.**

**Division 1.4 (formerly class “C”) fireworks may be possessed during periods herein provided.**

## **DISCHARGING AIR GUN, ETC.**

**Any person within the limits of this City who shall discharge any BB gun, spring gun, paint gun or air gun or shall shoot any pebble, bullet, slug, arrow or other hard substance by means of a sling, crossbow, rubber band or bow or any other means shall be deemed guilty of an ordinance violation; provided however, that this Section shall not apply to any person or organization authorized by the City of Houston Lake to possess and discharge such devices for the purpose of waterfowl pest control. (Ord. No. 303, 9-12-05 (Section 210.285))**



# 4<sup>th</sup> of July Houston Lake Celebration

## 10:00am Pet Show at the Mayor's Park



Bring your pets! Certificates awarded for:  
★Largest, ★Smallest, ★Best costume and ★Mayor's Choice  
Mayor Chuck Stone will pick the winners.



## 10:30am Kids Bike Parade at the Mayor's Park



Houston Lake residents and guests big and small ride their decorated bikes, trikes, scooters and wagons from the Mayor's park to the beach. Ice Cream treats for all will be served afterwards at the beach.

## 12:00pm Pot Luck Lunch at City Hall

The city will provide cheeseburgers, Brats and hot dogs, buns, condiments, plates, silverware, napkins, juice and water.

Please bring a dish or two to share.

Tica Felise will be singing from noon to 2:00pm., during our picnic.



## 2:00pm Lip Syncing Contest at City Hall

Please bring your family, picnic blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy the celebration with your neighbors!



Happy July 4th



**TICA  
FELISE**  
SINGER-SONGWRITER

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**MAY 27 | KKFI 90.1 FM**  
LOCAL SHOWCASE

**JUNE 1 | NATIONAL ANTHEM**  
KANSAS CITY, KS  
MONARCHS BASEBALL

**JUNE 4 | FIVEONE8**  
RED OAK, IA

**JUNE 12 | GLADSTONE FARMERS MARKET**  
KANSAS CITY, MO

**AUG 14 | MARS HOUSE**  
OMAHA NE

**SEPT 10 | HARLEY'S HIDEAWAY**  
SHAWNEE, KS

*Tica Felise a Houston Lake ukulele player will be singing for all of us during our picnic from noon to 2:00pm. She is a singer-songwriter originally from Denver, CO - has been playing solo and with various collaborations since 2000. Tica's powerful vocals will have you feeling mellow one moment & up out of your seat dancing the next. Poignant originals and Gen X favorite covers. She plays Rock&Roll/Pop/Blue/alternative, Ukulele/Voice.*

# Mask

## Call to Artists



## Art, Life & Folks Houston Lake Arts Circle

Registration Dates: May thru July  
Art Delivery Date: August 7, 2 - 4pm  
Exhibit: August 14, 1 - 4pm

**Houston Lake Arts Circle** is honored to announce a call for entries to our 7th Annual Art Show **Mask**

This is a call to residents for their handmade creations in any medium. Let your art be inspired by the theme, **Mask**. Whether your art is modern, traditional, still or kinetic.

### Entry Guidelines

Open to all Houston Lake Residents. All works must be made by the artist. Floor works must be firmly stable and less than 3 sq ft. Wall mounted pieces are limited to 20 lbs, and must be ready to hang. Limit 2 entries per artist.

### Exhibit

Performance works performed only at the exhibit opening.

Physical art remains on display after the opening. Selected pieces displayed Aug - Feb, remaining pieces displayed March - July.

### Mask Registration Form (due 7/31/2021)

*Please print clearly*

Artist:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Art Work

Title:

Approximate size:

Medium (watercolor, yarn, etc):

May we post you and your works on Facebook / Instagram? Yes/No:

The Arts Circle will care for your art, however we aren't responsible if damaged

### Mask Artwork Form (attach to back of art)

Artist:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Art Work

Title:

Medium (watercolor, yarn, etc):

The Arts Circle will care for your art, however we aren't responsible if damaged

# CALL TO ACTION

HOA Members,

The HOA is in need of volunteers for a few lake projects.

First, three teams of four to five people are needed for physical work of removal of lake vegetation.

It's going to be a hard, dirty job. The idea is for a couple folks to cut and rake the vegetation and a couple folks throw it up on the bank. The HOA will provide the equipment. The banks will look unsightly for a day or two, but the plant matter basically disintegrates. Once the boats are free we can conduct this work off of boats and move the plant material to shore.

If we can get enough volunteers we can get this work done.

The HOA would like to begin work as soon as possible on lake vegetation.

The next big item for the HOA is dirt removal from the peninsula. We need an operator for a skid steer and two to three people to drive a 5 Yard dump truck, commercial license not needed. This work will be done on a Friday and Saturday. Once we have volunteers for this project we will schedule a date for action.

Finally, we need a volunteer who can float in a watercraft and take water samples monthly near the beach docks. Sample bottles will be provided to the volunteer. Kerry will take the samples to the lab, not the volunteer.

Please email [hoacommunications@houstonlake.net](mailto:hoacommunications@houstonlake.net) or fill out the signup sheet at city hall if you can help with the work and available times to volunteer. Also, please provide the best way to get ahold of you (phone, email, text).

Thank You,

Venetian Gardens HOA Board

## Reminder to All Houston Lake Residents (Homeowners and

**Renters):** Please fill out survey and return it to the HOA mailbox at Houston Lake City Hall 5417 N. Adrian Ave, Houston Lake, MO. If you lost your survey or cannot find it, please contact Joe Briones 574-315-5176 for a new copy.

### First Razer Party:

On Saturday Brendan Brousseau, Chuck Stone, Landen Kemple and Joe Briones removed coon tail and duckweed from the lake. HOA tools were used for the project. A special thanks to Brendan for leading the charge on the project and purchasing the HOA's tools. Tools are available through the HOA for member use. Please email [hoacommunications@houstonlake.net](mailto:hoacommunications@houstonlake.net) to request the use of the tools.

Please set up your own Razer Party to help clean the lake.

Tools Available:

- Weed Razer
- Water Rakes
- Skimmer



## Call Out to All Residents

Residents of Houston Lake, We are looking to build a History page on the Houston Lake website. We would like digital copies of all pictures of the lake from the different events that have occurred through the years; and families that have lived on the lake and currently live on the lake. If you can provide a story to the pictures that would be great. If you have stories of the community please share them. All of this is to honor our past and for the present to be informed of its community's history.

Please send pictures and stories to [hoacommunications@houstonlake.net](mailto:hoacommunications@houstonlake.net).

## Need to Build a New Lake Directory

Please email [hoacommunications@houstonlake.net](mailto:hoacommunications@houstonlake.net) your name, phone number, address. Please let us know if you want your information private.

## **Update from HOA President, Kerry Hallowell**

I am happy to inform all community members what has transpired this last month. The following are the achievements of your HOA and its generous volunteers:

Your HOA purchased 2 Weed Razer Pro's to cut the excessive vegetation, due to the inadequate depth of our lake.

Joe Briones, Brendan Brousseau and Chuck Stone cut approximately 60' of shoreline vegetation, using the weed razer, and then raked the vegetation (approx. 1,000 lbs.) to the shoreline using the rakes modified by Brendan.

Great job. Thanks for your hard work.

Your HOA purchased a sprayer and an EPA approved aquatic herbicide to mitigate the duckweed. 60+ gallons have been applied. Laura Hines and Brendan Brousseau spent hours raking duckweed and vegetation over the spillway.

Great job. Thank you so much for your hard work.

Brendan collected the water sample. Results from the lab were positive.

30 E Coli. Anything under 200 is acceptable.

100 10" grass carp were released in the lake to begin their feeding frenzy on our vegetation. (coontail is among their fav.)

Brendan paid for 25 striper bass also released in the lake.

Thank you to Chuck Stone and Laura Hines for getting our aeration back up and running.

As announced in our monthly meeting in June, your HOA has retained an attorney to collect the \$40,000 of unpaid HOA dues. Serious legal action is being taken.

These are some of the actions taken by the HOA and our generous volunteers.

Please join us in our efforts to improve the health of our lake and community.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact any of the board members;

Kerry Hallowell 816-695-4100 @ [hallowellkerry2020@gmail.com](mailto:hallowellkerry2020@gmail.com)

Joe Briones @ [hoacommunications@houstonlake.net](mailto:hoacommunications@houstonlake.net)

Teresa Olson @ [teresaaolson@hotmail.com](mailto:teresaaolson@hotmail.com)

Sue Hodges @ [hodges.susan@outlook.com](mailto:hodges.susan@outlook.com)

Mary Head @ [maryjewel40@gmail.com](mailto:maryjewel40@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kerry Hallowell

# Venetian Gardens Homes Association Meeting 6-16-2021 Minutes

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**Roll Call:** Mary Head

Present: Kerry Hallowell, President, Joe Briones, Vice President, Susan Hodges, Secretary/Treasurer, Mary Head, Board Member  
Absent: Teresa Olson, Board Member

**Treasurer's report:**

Susan Hodges presented the May 2021 financial statements, which included the collections and expenses for the month.

**Meeting:**

Kerry Hallowell advised the members that the Board had met with an attorney. The Board is turning over 15 properties to the attorney for collection. Then what will happen is that the attorney will send letters stating that the member will have a certain number of days to bring their account current. If there is no payment, then the attorney will make a motion that the property be sold on the courthouse steps to collect past dues and pay the attorney's fees.

The Call to Action, a request for a team of volunteers was discussed. The Board purchased 5 pounds of Propeller, an EPA approved aquatic herbicide to treat the duckweed. The product is mixed one ounce per gallon of water, then sprayed topically on the lake surface. The chemical is non toxic to people, fish, or wildlife. Kerry asked for volunteers for this project.

The second project is to try to remove the vegetation growing under the water using vegetation cutting tools. Kerry let the members know that the Board purchased two Weed Razer Pro Weed Cutters to cut the vegetation at the base, then it will float to the top. Volunteers are needed to cut and move the vegetation to the bank. The weeds will then disintegrate in a couple of days. Kerry said she would like to do this from a boat, however the boats can not get into the water because of the vegetation. She wants to have three teams of three people to work in different areas of the lake. Hopefully if the vegetation is removed around the banks, then boats can be used for the second round.

The third project is the removal of the dirt from the 2019 dredging project from the peninsula. Kerry said that the estimated bids that were received a couple of years ago were between \$1,600 and \$2000. Now that is time to remove it the estimate is \$20,000, so we are going to do it ourselves. Joe Briones is in the construction business, and he has the plans to put together a team. Joe added that he needs three volunteers, one being an individual that can operate a skid steer and two that can drive a 5-yard dump truck. He said that a commercial license is not needed for this dump truck. There is a free place to dump in Riverside, which is approximately 4 miles away.

A volunteer is also needed to take water samples. Kerry will provide the paperwork, vials for the samples and she will deliver the samples to the lab.

The members were reminded to complete the survey and drop it off in the HOA mailbox at City Hall. A member asked why the dirt is being removed from the peninsula if the peninsula is going to be removed. Joe responded that there is no guarantee that the grant would be received, nor that the members would vote to remove it, plus the timeline may be several years. Additionally, the Board promised the members that the dirt would be removed when the members voted for the dredging. To not remove it is not fair to the members that view the peninsula from their backyard.

Kerry asked for feedback on putting a water hose at the beach to clean up the goose droppings on the dock. Discussions regarding the safety/misuse of hose by unsupervised minors ensued.

Various members made comments on other tools that could be used including floaters and lake rakes. Another member asked if the members could get fill dirt from the peninsula. It was also suggested that Evergy be contacted to see if they want the dirt. A member suggested that improved communication methods would be helpful to the HOA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Susan Hodges, Secretary

## CITY NEWS

Our city lawnmower is in the shop. One of our residents who has a home-based landscaping business was glad to step in and help us out at a reasonable fee.

Last week, the federal government released the final compliance and reporting guidance for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It's a stimulus package that the City of Houston Lake will be receiving. Some of the categories that Houston Lake would likely benefit from are improving "outdoor spaces" and Improvements to the city sewer system. There should also be a home improvement and weatherization allocation for homeowners.

The money will not be coming for a couple of weeks, but I'm working on a plan to spend the money on improving our parks and sewage systems. I'll share more information as I get it.

The City Council has confirmed my appointment of Ann-Marie Murphey as their newest member. She will be representing the North Ward.

This past month has seen powerful storms unleash damaging flash floods that have damaged many homes. The city has approved funds for stormwater repair on Edgewater Trail. I also have signed an agreement with the county on how to spend our recently approved stormwater grant. I've taken the Platte County Public Works Director for a tour of our city. The only thing we discussed was stormwater control.

I encourage everyone to come to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations at Houston Lake. Bring guests with you. A late addition to the fun is live music. Houston Lake's Tica Felise will be singing and strumming to liven things up while everyone sees old friends and makes new ones.

Mayor Chuck Stone

**City of Houston Lake**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes\*Final**  
**May 10, 2021 at 7:30pm**  
City Hall – 5417 NW Adrian Houston Lake, MO

**1. Opening Session Mayor Stone called the meeting to order at 7:31pm**

- a. Cell Phones – Please silence
- b. Roll Call -The following members were present: Alderman Farsace, Alderman Evonne Briones via zoom, Alderman Teena Walker-Robin and Mayor Chuck Stone. Vacant seat for Alderman of North Ward

**2. Public Discussion - No Public Discussion**

**3. Minutes**

- a. Approve Minutes of City Council Meeting: April 12, 2021 and tonight's agenda - approved with amendment of Emergency Management There were no incidents to report  
Motion to Approve - Alderman Farsace  
2nded by - Alderman Walker-Robin  
Roll Call Vote- Alderman Farsace Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Briones Yes

Approve Meeting Agenda - with Amendments to Building Permits, Old Business and New Business  
Motion to Approve - Alderman Farsace  
2nded by - Alderman Walker-Robin

**4. Building /Burn Permits**

Burn Permit -5335 NW Edgewood Circle - Approved  
Motion to Approve - Alderman Farsace  
2nded by - Alderman Walker-Robin  
Roll Call Vote- Alderman Farsace Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Briones Abstain

-5347 NW Edgewood Circle - Approved  
Motion to Approve - Alderman Briones  
2nded by - Alderman Walker-Robin  
Roll Call Vote- Alderman Farsace Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Briones Yes

-5420 NW Houston Lake Drive - Approved  
Motion to Approve - Alderman Walker-Robin  
2nded by - Alderman Farsace  
Roll Call Vote- Alderman Farsace Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Briones Yes

Building permit -3430 NW Edgewater Trail \*Amended  
EXCAVATION: Approved  
Motion to Approve - Alderman Farsace  
2nded by - Alderman Walker-Robin  
Roll Call Vote- Alderman Briones Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Farsace Yes

BUILDING DRIVEWAY Approved  
Motion to Approve - Alderman Walker-Robin  
2nded by - Alderman Briones  
Roll Call Vote- Alderman Briones Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Farsace Yes

BUILDING DOCK Approved  
Motion to Approve - Alderman Farsace  
2nded by - Alderman Walker-Robin  
Roll Call Vote- Alderman Briones Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Farsace Yes

**5. Treasurer's Report -**

Motion to Accept - Alderman Farsace  
2nded by - Alderman Briones  
Roll Call Vote- Alderman Farsace Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Briones Yes

**6. Collector's Report - Discussion**

- a. Houston Lake
- b. Platte County

**7. Paybills – Resolution No 05.10.2021 - Approved**

Motion to Approve - Alderman Farsace  
2nded by - Alderman Walker-Robin  
Roll Call Vote- Alderman Briones Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Farsace Yes

**8. Emergency Management**

- a. **Fire Department Report** - Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Taylor – Report included with the packet, presentation given.
- b. **Police Report** - Woodrow Painter - Report included with the packet, presentation given.

**9. Codes Report - 2 violations in April, none from March to follow up on**

- a. April 2021 Report by Code Enforcement Officer

**10. Venetian Gardens' Homes Association Report - Kerry Hallowell, President**

**11. Old Business**

- a. Land use Resolution
- b. Bank Signatures \*Amended

**12. New Business**

- a. Missouri American Water easements
- b. Amending Platte County Sheriff's Dept. contract
- c. Budget meeting June 14th 7:00 PM
- d. Platte County Sheriff's Deputy Community Picnic
- e. 4th of July Picnic
- f. Selling the dump truck
- g. Discussion about changing our current ordinance (section 235.080 a) from vague definitions of Rubbish Garbage or Junk to more specific examples of Junk, Trash and Debris.
- h. Discussion amending grass weeds and other vegetation limits, definitions, and adding administrative fee and increased cost of mowing abatements.
- i. Office Equipment \*Amended

### 13. Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Farsace - updated the Flood Plan with FEMA, Still working on easements on the lake and will work with HOA, Mayor Stone had a good letter in the Houston Laker, Monday night walks are still going on.

Alderman Walker-Robin - Started looking into issues with culverts.

Alderman Briones - 2nd that Mayor Stone's letter was a good addition to the Laker, Liked that there were residents out on their own for the Monday night walk

### 14. Mayors Report

Thank Megan Micek for being a great City Clerk as this is her last meeting, looking to the future I would like to name a new Alderman for the North Ward after June 30th 1 year residency approved, spillway bridge work-the boards are a band-aid to the rot that the bridge is having we will need to look into other and additional repairs and replacement of the boards

### 15. Adjournment at 9:45pm

Motion to Adjourn - Alderman Farsace

2nded by - Alderman Walker-Robin

Roll Call Vote- Alderman Briones Yes  
Alderman Walker-Robin Yes  
Alderman Farsace Yes

**Next Council Meeting June 14, 2021 at 7:30pm with a Budget meeting at 7:00pm**

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Applications for a **Building Permit, Open Burning Permit** for recreational purpose and **Dumpster Permit** may be obtained by downloading the application on our website [houstonlake.net](http://houstonlake.net), you can call and leave a message at City Hall 816-741-0644 or contact your Alderwomen. **Note: Please submit all applications for permits 10 days prior to the meeting for consideration. Applications can be deposited in the mail box at the front of the building.**

" This article was taken from  
the first newspaper  
ever published at the  
Village of Houston Lake."

# HOUSTON *Hi-Lites*

Vol. 1 No. 1

Houston Lake, Parkville, MO.

March 1957

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## **SUCCESSFUL LAKE NEWSPAPER NEEDS HELP FROM EVERYONE !**

This first issue of the Houston Hi --Lites is a trial balloon. It is published in the belief that an informed community is a better community -- you should know what is going on around the Lake and have an opportunity to take part in it's affairs. this way we will all benefit.

So, we ask your help in publishing the Hi - Lites. tell us the names of new families around the Lake, births, prize catches (husbands or fish) questions you would like answered or any other items of interest.

Call Claytons: SH 1-2047.

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Art Clayton, who worked for TWA was a board member of the Venetian Gardens Home Association and the originator of Houston Hi -Lites. Mary Head who is now the editor has donated all of her time to publish the Houston Laker, once every month, since February 1978.

There is a cost involved to put out the paper. The City of Houston Lake has graciously let the HOA print the paper on their printer which the Venetian Gardens Homes Association pays to use.

Houston Lake has been able to survive all of these years because everyone living here has been willing to pull together and help with any problems that arise.

At present we need to find new ways to raise money, without raising home owner's dues, to help with ever increasing expense of maintaining the Lake and to help with the cost of producing the Houston Laker.

One way we can raise a little bit of money without much trouble is by selling advertisement in the Houston Laker. Every business is a potential customer. Tell family & friends they can run a full page ad, copy ready for only \$20 per issue. For more details contact Mary Head at: 816-741-5639.

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Brow Shaping

Best wishes to you,  
Marlene