

December 2021 Edition

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# HOUSTON LAKER

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Fading Light

 Jean Anderson



*Merry Christmas  
and have a  
Happy Healthy New Year 2022  
from  
City of Houston Lake,  
Venetian Gardens Homes  
Association,  
Houston Lake Arts Circle  
and  
Houston Laker  
Community News*



## Residential Brush and Limb Pick-Up

Over the weekend of **December 4th and 5th** the Venetian Gardens Home Owners Association and City of Houston Lake will be organizing a brush and limb pick-up around the community! **Brush and limbs up to 4” in diameter** will be taken; residents wishing to participate in the pick-up will need to consolidate brush and limbs into one pile on their property where it is easily accessible by a public road. For most of us this is our front lawns, just be sure not to impede public services like USPS and trash services. Brush and limbs will be picked up over the course of the weekend via trailer and disposed of.

Residents will have from the time of this publication to the weekend of **December 4th and 5th** to organize brush and limbs for pick-up. Code Enforcement for limb and yard debris will be suspended from **11/22/21-12/5/21** to allow residents to consolidate brush at an intersection between their property and a public roadway. Please reach out to [HOAcommunications@houstonlake.net](mailto:HOAcommunications@houstonlake.net) or your local alderman with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Brendan Brousseau;  
[brendan.brousseau@gmail.com](mailto:brendan.brousseau@gmail.com)  
Vice President Venetian Gardens HOA



## December Community Calendar Events

**Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>** - Residential Brush & Limb Pick-Up

**Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>** - Recycling and Trash pickup day

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** - Candidate Filing opens today at 8:00am for the April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 General Municipal Election. Contact City Clerk, Sarah Schofield @ 816.394.8828 text is best.

**Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>** - City of Houston Lake Council Meeting, 7:30pm, City Hall or Virtually.

We will be offering zoom every month until further notice as an option so more residents can attend. You can email [cityclerk@houstonlake.net](mailto:cityclerk@houstonlake.net) to receive the link.

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>** - **NO MEETING** - Venetian Gardens Homes Association

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** -



and

**Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>,**



**Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>** - Closing Date @ 5:00pm. for Candidate filing for the April 5, 2022 General Municipal Election. Contact City Clerk, Sarah Schofield @ 816.394.8828 text is best.

**Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>** - Trash Pickup

**Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** - Recycling and Trash Pickup day

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**Homes Association Dues:** The Homes Association dues statements will be mailed Jan. 31, 2022. Annual dues are \$450.00, and they will become delinquent March 2, 2022. Past due amounts are charged a 10% penalty each year. Payments can be mailed to City Hall or delivered to City Hall. If mailed, please mail it to Venetian Gardens Homes Association, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, Mo. 64151. If delivered, please put your payment in the HOA mailbox on the front porch of city hall, 5417 N.W. Adrian. If you have any questions call Secretary/Treasurer Susan Hodges 816.786.2377 or email her at [hodges.susan@outlook.com](mailto:hodges.susan@outlook.com) Thank you

There will be **NO** Venetian Gardens Homes Association meeting in December and January 2022. Our next meeting will be on February 16, 2022 at 7:00pm – City Hall.

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The **HOA wants a design for a letterhead** (can be an older one). We are asking our residents to submit a letterhead design to Mary Head at [maryjewel40@gmail.com](mailto:maryjewel40@gmail.com) or call her at 816.741.5639. Thank You

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**Nov. 10, 2021**

To Houston Lake Residents

Just wanted to let people know that dirt removal at the peninsula is still moving forward, the original excavation company had crew out today removing dirt with a dump truck (thank you Teresa Olson for noticing!). Apparently they had two jobs that were expecting to use dirt from here but dirt was already allocated so they are just now getting back to needing dirt again. Their plan is still to remove all of the dirt and level everything off once completed.

The HOA intend to seed the Peninsula around Spring time.

Brendan Brousseau,  
Vice President of Venetian  
Gardens Homes Association



**Nov. 10, 2021**



**Nov. 10, 2021**



# Gene Charles: From Flight Engineer to Captain Dredge



At his table, we flipped through a cardboard-bound portfolio of maps, military orders, and photos. He told me of his years when he kept his C-47 flying. "The pilots were in charge of the plane in the air, and I was in charge of it on the ground," Gene said proudly. As a flying crew chief, he flew 400 hours over the Philippines and Taiwan during America's involvement in the Korean War.

Though many miles away from the hostilities, Gene's plane landed in Zamboanga, where tensions sometimes turned violent between the Muslim Moro People and the Philippine government. The landing strip was

surrounded by a jungle known to be controlled by Moro Rebels. Gene was left alone to tend to the airplane at the strip with nothing but his aircraft for shelter.

Moro rebels were infamous for their dagger-type weapons called barongs.



# Gene Survived by Knowledge and Luck

At Clark, Air Force Base, Gene met a famous single-engine military trainer pilot during the Korean War. The pilot made a point of taking mechanics up for demonstration flights. He asked Gene if he would like to go, and he almost said yes but then remembered that he had other plans and politely declined. That pilot crashed his airplane on the flight Jean might have been on.

The airplane that Gene maintained was the military version of the popular DC-3. It cruised at 170 miles per hour. At that speed, it took about 4 hours for a flight to Zamboanga. The C-47 had a total fuel capacity of 804 gallons giving it the ability to keep its two engines running for eight hours. On Gene's last trip to Zamboanga, they made a stop at Tacloban. So by the time they got to Zamboanga, they had used more than half their fuels supply.

On previous flights to Zamboanga, Gene always added 200 gallons to have reserve fuel.

But the co-pilot told the pilot, "Hell no, we don't need fuel."

The pilot asked Jean if he was sure about the plane's range and if adding 200 gallons was necessary.

Jean was insistent, and the pilot decided to add the fuel. As they approached, Clark Air Force Base daylight had turned to dark. Clark tower reported that the runway lights are inoperative and suggested diverting to Manila, 50 miles away.

Afterward, that pilot thanked Gene for insisting on bringing the extra fuel.

## Learning the Local Culture

When not working on the airplanes or on a trip, Gene's curiosity about the Philippine people was rewarded with a taste of the local cuisine. One woman that Gene and his

buddy befriended served them a steamed rice burrito-shaped thing with spices and herbs cooked into it while wrapped in corn husks. It was somehow hardened to the point that

one could eat it in the same fashion as eating corn on the cob.

The woman and her fiancé were very welcoming. They enjoyed having Gene and his friend "Gator" over for the night. In the morning, she cooked them eggs and potatoes because she

thought that was what Americans liked.

American westerns were popular in the movie theaters at the time. One of the locals asked Gene if this stagecoach had ever been robbed.

## A lifetime of Tinkering

As a boy, Gene tinkered with scraps lying around his house. Using a hand-powered drill, he made a working engine out of a shock absorber.

After getting out of the military, Gene got a job at the Fairfax General Motors plant. GM was on contract from Republic Aircraft Company to build F-84 jet fighters for the military. He was surprised to discover that he was the only one there that had experience with airplanes. All the other workers only had experience building cars. They made Gene an inspector.

Gene applied to TWA before his stint at GM but didn't get hired. Now with Inspector on his resume, Gene used again and was employed as a mechanic for TWA.

He had a long career as an inspector at TWA. After his retirement, he didn't slow down. Residents of Houston Lake knew who to call if anything wasn't working right.

President Harry Callicotte and President Venetian Gardens Homes Association purchased a broken-down dredger with plans to run and dredge the lake. They didn't have to think long before asking Gene to take charge of the project.

Soon, Gene had the dredger running. It was approximately 25 feet long and 8 feet wide. It had a center-mounted station that looked similar to a phone booth where the Gene sat. The dredge pulled itself along a cable similar to a ski lift. The silt was sent through a rigid pipe with hand-made flexible joints that Gene and his crew floated toward the south side of the dam. There the water and mud would shoot from the line about fifteen feet into the air and land at what now is called Mayor's Park. The pipe that was used for the job is still in the attic of the city garage.

There were a lot of mishaps. A tree Gene's crew was using for an anchor for their cable fell into the lake. The hand-made flexible joint would often spring a leak and shoot

mud high into the air or onto the road.  
After many hot days on the lake that  
achieved their goals of adding three  
feet of depth to the areas they worked.  
Gene Charles served his country and  
his community well.

Dear Residents,

I hope you have a joyous and wonderful holiday season. I am optimistic about 2022. The Board looks forward to hosting different events for the residents, like Spring lake clean up and the annual fishing tournament. We plan on rolling out short- and long-term plans for the lake, early 2022. The HOA will continue to work on grants and other sources of outside funding. As recommended by the audit committee, the Board will be reviewing and updating the HOA's By-Laws, Restrictions and Rules. It will be a busy year. We ask for all members and residents to participate in the different events in 2022. Please be safe this holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Briones  
President  
Venetian Gardens Homeowners Association



Venetian Gardens Homes Association

Meeting

Minutes

November 17, 2021

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at City Hall

**Roll Call:** Mary Head

Present: Joe Briones, President, Brendan Brousseau, Vice President, Susan Hodges, Secretary/Treasurer, Mary Head, Board Member

Absent: Kerry Hallowell, Board Member.

**Treasurer's report:**

Susan Hodges provided the current cash balances in the operating and money market account, as well as collections received since the last meeting.

**Meeting:**

Joe asked each Board Member to give an update on projects in progress. Mary is working on the history of Houston Lake and all the fishing stories that happened. Brendan is working with google to set up an HOA account and also reported that the excavation of the dirt on the peninsula is progressing. Sue had no update.

Lisa Shepard planned to present the Venetian Gardens Homes Association Audit Report and Recommendations dated October 11, 2021, but was unable to attend the meeting. She requested that Joe present the report. Joe read the report and requested that it be included in the meeting minutes. Thus, the attached Audit Report and Audit Conclusion are formally incorporated into these minutes.

Joe advised the members that the HOA has a plan to seek grants and do a letter campaign requesting outside funding from other organizations that may support conservation projects, recreational activities such as fishing, or who may be interested in protecting the wildlife around the lake. A letterhead is currently being designed so that the letter campaign is effectively presented.

Joe also let the members know that the Board is working on updating the bylaws and restriction agreements and they would be presented to the members at a future date to be discussed and put to a member vote. He also noted that the Board is working on establishing rules for committees/commissions working with the HOA Board.

Since the Houston Laker is published by the HOA, in the future Joe would like to see more news about the residents in the community so we can get to know each other, as long as residents are willing to share their news.

The meeting was then opened to others for questions/comments. Chuck Stone asked the HOA to pay for the rental of a chipper to get rid of the brush around the lake. He also requested that due to colliding activities at City Hall that HOA events be scheduled. He also noted that there is some large vegetation on the dam spillway.

Joe commented that VGHA manages the lake, not the residential property as most HOA's do. The lake maintenance is very expensive and asked for the City's support for leverage in asking for grants.

Another member asked if the HOA is still working with an attorney to collect past dues. Joe advised the member that yes, the HOA is working with an attorney.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40.

Minutes submitted by: Susan Hodges, Secretary

**CITY OFFICIALS**  
**CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE**

Mayor Chuck Stone = 816-305-3196  
([mayor@houstonlake.net](mailto:mayor@houstonlake.net))

City Clerk Sarah Schofield = 816-741-0644  
([cityclerk@houstonlake.net](mailto:cityclerk@houstonlake.net))

Sewer Grinder Pumps  
Sarah Schofield = 816-394-8828

City Collector - Kathryn Kreider  
([taxcollector@houstonlake.net](mailto:taxcollector@houstonlake.net))

Alderwoman (Ward 1 So.), Mayor Pro-Tem  
  
([sw2-alderman@houstonlake.net](mailto:sw2-alderman@houstonlake.net))

Alderwoman (Ward 1 So.)  
Sarah Farsace = 816-863-2412  
([sw1-alderman@houstonlake.net](mailto:sw1-alderman@houstonlake.net))

Alderwoman (Ward 2 No.)  
Teena Walker-Robin = 816-769-6082  
([nw1-alderman@houstonlake.net](mailto:nw1-alderman@houstonlake.net))

Alderwoman (Ward 2 No.)  
Annemarie Murphy = 913-222-4705  
([nw2-alderman@houstonlake.net](mailto:nw2-alderman@houstonlake.net))

Codes Enforcement Officer  
Cathy Grove 913-701-7142  
([codesenforcement@houstonlake.net](mailto:codesenforcement@houstonlake.net))

Platte County Circuit Court Clerk  
Kim Johnson = 816-858-2232

Platte County Sheriff  
Non emergency 816-858-3521  
For emergencies please call 911  
Fire Dept. Dispatcher = 816-741-1191  
Fire Dept. Admin. = 816-372-9024

**VENETIAN GARDENS**  
**HOMES ASSOCIATION (HOA)**

President = Joe Briones  
([joe.briones@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.briones@hotmail.com))

Vice President = Brendan Brousseau  
([brendan.brousseau@gmail.com](mailto:brendan.brousseau@gmail.com))

Public Relations Officer =  
([hoacommunications@houstonlake.net](mailto:hoacommunications@houstonlake.net))

Secretary /Treasurer/ Lake Tags = Susan Hodges  
816-786-2377 ([hodges.susan@outlook.com](mailto:hodges.susan@outlook.com))

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

Board Member = Mary Head  
816-741-5639 ([maryjewel40@gmail.com](mailto:maryjewel40@gmail.com))

Registrar/Editor - Houston Laker = Mary Head  
816-741-5639 ([editor@houstonlake.net](mailto:editor@houstonlake.net))

Water Quality Officer = Brendan Brousseau

Dam/Watershed Officer

Aerator Maintenance = Brendan Brousseau

For more City and Homes Association Info  
and the Houston Laker Newspapers go to  
[www.houstonlake.net](http://www.houstonlake.net)

City of Houston Lake City Hall (816)741.0644

**2022**

**City of Houston Lake Meetings  
At 7:30pm – City Hall**

**(second Monday of every month)**

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**June 13<sup>th</sup>**

**July 11<sup>th</sup>**

**August 8<sup>th</sup>**

**September 12<sup>th</sup>**

**October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**November 14<sup>th</sup>**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**

If you have any questions email

City Clerk, Sarah Schofield at

[cityclerk@houstonlake.net](mailto:cityclerk@houstonlake.net) Thank You

**2022**

**Venetian Gardens Homes  
Association Meetings**

**at 7:00pm – City Hall**

**(third Wednesday of every month)**

**Jan. 19, 2022 – No Meeting**

**Feb. 16, 2022**

**March 16, 2022**

**April 20, 2022 – Semi-Annual**

**May 18, 2022**

**June 15, 2022**

**July 20, 2022**

**Aug. 17, 2022**

**Sept. 21, 2022**

**Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 = Wed. or Sat. –  
Venetian Gardens Homes Association**

**Annual Membership Meeting-**

**(7pm if on Wednesday or 1pm if on Saturday)**

**Nov. 16, 2022**

**Dec. 21, 2022 – No Meeting**

If you have any questions email

HOA, Secretary/Treasurer Susan Hodges at

[hodges.susan@outlook.com](mailto:hodges.susan@outlook.com), Thank you



# Important Notice

## Trash Pick-up Day



Blue Lid Trash Cart

Trash pickup is every Wednesday & Your recycling day will also be on a Wednesday once a month.

Trash carts must be curbside by 7:00 am the day of pick up Wednesday. Be respectful and remove your cart from curbside when finished. Items must be inside the cart (Not on the ground, not on top – INSIDE). If you need an extra cart, please call City Hall and leave a message with your name, address and phone number. City Hall: 816-741-0644.

For questions relating to your service please call 816-254-1470 between 7:30am – 5:00pm Monday – Friday.

The holidays that Republic Services Trash Company observes are New Years, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. When any of these holidays fall on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday your trash pickup will be on Thursday of that week.

### 2021 & 2022 Holiday Schedule

Christmas (Saturday 12-25-21)  
New Years (Saturday 1-1-22)  
Memorial Day (Monday 5-30-22)  
Independence Day (Monday 7-4-22)  
Labor Day (Monday 9-5-22)  
Thanksgiving (Thursday 11-24-22)  
Christmas (Sunday 12-25-22)  
New Years (Sunday 1-1-23)

### Pick-up Day

Wednesday 12-29-21  
Wednesday 1-5-22  
Thursday 6-2-22  
Thursday 7-7-22  
Thursday 9-8-22  
Wednesday 11-23-22  
Wednesday 12-28-22  
Wednesday 1-4-23

## Trash and Recycle Bin Retrieval!

If you have extra Trash or Recycle bins that you are NOT using, the city would like them back! The trash bins are blue with wheels and the recycle bins are blue with yellow lids and wheels. Please call City Hall and leave a message with your name, address and phone number and we will arrange a time to pick up the extra bins. City Hall: 816-741-0644  
Thank You!

# 2021 & 2022 Recycle Schedule

December 8, 2021

January 5

February 2

March 2

March 30

April 27

May 25

June 22

July 20

August 17

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 7

January 4, 2023



Yellow or Green  
recycling cart



Items must be inside the cart (**Not on the ground, not on top – inside**). Recycle carts must be curbside by 7:00 am the day of pick up, Wednesday. Be respectful and remove your cart from curbside when finished. If you need an extra cart or would like to recycle, please call City Hall and leave a message with your name, address and phone number. City Hall: 816-741-0644.

Due to the elimination of alderman reports, abstracts, summaries, and helpful details from the City Council Meeting minutes, I have asked that my final Alderman Report be published in the Laker so the community is made aware of the management of the Fire Suppression funds and my resignation as Alderman of the South Ward. Please contact me with questions at [evonnebriones@hotmail.com](mailto:evonnebriones@hotmail.com). It has been an honor to serve our community in the role of alderman and I look forward to continuing to contribute to Houston Lake in other capacities.

# Alderman Report

Evonne Briones – South Ward

November 8, 2021

## Fire Suppression Levy

We have a silent problem that is ballooning due to our recent increase in property valuation. Very simply put, I think we are managing portions of our income incorrectly. It appears we are spending Fire Suppression funds on things other than fire suppression services.

The Fire Suppression Tax is lumped together with the Houston Lake Property tax on our tax bills as well as when the money received by Houston Lake from Platte County.

**Houston Lake Property tax** -voted on by City Council every year in August, most recently August 31, 2021. Due to increase in valuation, rate decreased from .7099 to .5551. This money is used to cover items in the General Fund (attorney fees, property maintenance, city payroll, etc.)

**Fire Suppression** – voted on by residents every 4 years, most recently April 2021. Essentially, Riverside charges Houston Lake \$19,000 annually for Fire Suppression Services and Houston Lake taxes its residents \$0.78/\$100 assess value to cover this charge.

April 6, 2021 Ballot Question:

Should the City of Houston Lake, Missouri continue the existing special tax levy of seventy-eight cents (\$0.78) per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for an additional period of four (4) years for fire suppression services?

The **Houston Lake Property tax** and the **Fire Suppression levy** are added together and seen as one line item on your property tax bill. This year it is listed as **HL** at a rate of **1.3351**.

The last two years, the estimated valuation for Houston Lake and the resulting projected Fire Suppression Levy incomes are as follows.

		Valuation	Projected Income from .78/100 levy	Transferred from General Fund to Fire Suppression	Projected to be absorbed by General Fund
20/21	March	2,998,136	23,385	19000	4,385
19/20	April	2,986,997	23,299	19000	4,299

Over the last few years, an even \$19K was transferred from the General Fund to the Fire Suppression Fund. This means, with a projected income of \$23,385 and a transfer of only \$19k, there was a surplus absorbed by the General Fund. This surplus has averaged \$4,342 and when Mayor Stone commented last month (September City Council meeting) that the budget “always works out”, this surplus could be one of the reasons.

So, think, *is this the appropriate way to manage the fire suppression income? To use Fire Suppression tax money to pay for attorney fees, property maintenance, salaries, etc.*

....report continued on next page....

Whether it was right or wrong, over the last two years, the projected surplus averaged \$4,342. However, with our new increase valuation, the current .78 rate is expected to yield \$31,018 of income; a surplus of **\$12,018**.

Valuation	3,976,755
Tax Levy	0.78
Projected Income	31,018.69

As I mentioned, to me, this seems like a silent problem that is now ballooning due to the new valuation of our properties. The ballot language says the money is to be used for fire suppression services and the increase in our property valuation requires us to finally address this problem and make adjustments.

So, what's the solution? I suspect this can be handled at the polls in April with two ballot questions.

First ballot question: For fiscal year 2021-2022, the fire suppression levy surplus can be absorbed by the General Fund for budgeted items.

Second ballot question: The fire suppression tax will decrease to .4778 and the HL property tax will increase to .8573. Additionally, going forward, a surplus in Fire Suppression levy income under \$2k can be absorbed the General Fund and used for budgeted items.

With this second ballot question, the residents will pay the same amount as they do this year, but the money will be put in the right bucket for how it is used.

I feel this is a straightforward solution to, as I mentioned, a silent problem that is ballooning due to the new valuation of our properties.

I believe the Board would need to vote on these ballot questions by the end of the January meeting for them to be included in the April elections. So, I leave these suggestions to the Mayor and the Board, hope and strongly encourage you pursue these changes. I will follow up on this in January then, but not as an alderman, rather as a resident.

Which leads me to my final topic of my alderman report.

## Resignation

Tonight, I am submitting my resignation as alderman, effective at the adjournment of this meeting.

I am sorry to be stepping aside before my term expires. The decision to excuse myself from this commitment early was thoughtfully and strategically considered. The bottom line, though, is that Mayor Stone and I do not play by the same rules, our codes of ethics simply do not align. And what's more, it has become clear my talents, my intellect, and my perspectives are not valued by the Mayor which renders my efforts useless and ineffective. If I am unable to be effective, then my time is being wasted.

We all have 168 hours to use each week and there are many ways to serve Houston Lake. I can be more effective with my time doing something else than being an alderman on Mayor Stone's Board.

I appreciate the opportunity to assist in governing Houston Lake for the past 15 months; I will always cherish the memory campaigning door to door, meeting my constituents and listening to their concerns, taking my boys to the polls and showing them their mama's name on the ballot and knowing the fact that Betty Connell, the lady from whom I bought my house, was the first female alderman, blazing the trail for this entire board to sit here tonight.

It has been an educational journey this past year; I have enjoyed asking questions and learning about how our City operates. Again, thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to continuing to support Houston Lake in other capacities where I will have a greater impact.

With that, I, for the last time as an Alderman of Houston Lake, yield the floor to you, Mayor Stone. Thank you.

# City News

## Caroling, Coffee, Cocoa, & Cookies

Houston Lake is having a “Carol Sing” ahead of the next city council meeting on Monday, December 13 beginning at 6:00 PM.

Resident Lisa Shepard and members of her Kansas City Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota will be singing carols on the City Hall porch. All are invited to listen and/or participate in the singing.

Your singing is encouraged but not graded. Masks are optional inside and outside City Hall.

## Grinder Pump Maintenance Fee

The city council heard the first reading of the title of the ordinance to cut the Grinder Pump maintenance fees to half for residents with grinder pumps. The city attorney should have the new ordinance written and ready for the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## I'm going to build a bridge

Alderwoman Murphy and Mayor Stone have been discussing ways to get the spillway bridge usable to cars again.

Mayor Stone recalls a 10 years' gap in his time at Houston Lake. He noticed a distinct change in the traffic going over the spillway bridge when he returned. He left before the Jeffery Drive connected Houston Lake to Brenner's Ridge (aka 52nd Terrace). Before Brenner Ridge was developed, there was a manageable amount of auto traffic going over the dam. When he returned it seemed like the number of cars crossing over the spillway bridge had more than doubled.

It was obvious that most of the traffic over the bridge was from Brenner's Ridge and parts of Riverside. Not only did this put a burden on Houston Lake financially (increased maintenance) but it also caused headaches because there were opposite

direction traffic control problems along the single lane over the dam.

A bill will be voted on in the US House of Representatives that will give Kansas City, Riverside, and Houston Lake the ability to spend the funds we already have on infrastructure.

(1. [KIRO7.com](http://KIRO7.com)) If it passes, we will be asking our neighboring cities to share some of their windfall on repairing our spillway bridge.

## Alderwoman Briones Resigned

During the completion of the November City of Houston Lake Council Meeting, Alderwoman Ward 1 South, Evonne Briones, resigned effective at the end of the meeting. Mayor Chuck Stone and the City Council members wish to thank Ms. Briones for her 15 months of service on the Council and to our community.

The vacant Ward 1 South position will be filled by Ashley Branham pending confirmation.

# **NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CANDIDATE FILING**

The City of Houston Lake, Missouri will hold an election,  
Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to elect the following offices:

**One Alderperson from Ward 1 (South) for two (2) year term.**

**One Alderperson from Ward 2 (North) for two (2) year term.**

**To be a candidate for one of these offices you must file with the City Clerk,  
no earlier than Tuesday December 7, 2021, and no later than 5p.m.  
Tuesday December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The filing forms will be made available by contacting City  
Clerk, Sarah Schofield @ 816.394.8828 text is best or  
Email is best to receive a quicker response = [cityclerk@houstonlake.net](mailto:cityclerk@houstonlake.net)**

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## **City of Houston Lake City Council Meeting Minutes October 11, 2021 at 7:30pm**

Held at City Hall – 5417 NW Adrian Houston Lake, MO with Residents also attended via Zoom

**Mayor Stone opened the meeting at 7:33pm** - Roll Call Roll Call - Mayor Stone, Alderman Evonne Briones, Alderman Sarah Farsace, Alderman Annemarie Murphy, Alderman Tina Walker-Robin,

**Motion to amend the 10/11/2021 agenda to add Building Permit for 5331 NW Edgewood Circle** - Alderman Farsace, 2nd Alderman Murphy, Roll Call Vote Aye - Alderman Farsace, Alderman Briones, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Walker-Robin Ney - None, Abstain - None, Motion passes

**Motion to approve the amended Agenda for 10/11/2021** - Alderman Briones, 2nd Alderman Walker-Robin, Vote Aye - Alderman Farsace, Alderman Briones, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Walker-Robin Ney - None, Abstain - None, Motion passes

**Motion to approve the Minutes from 9/13/2021** - Alderman Walker-Robin, 2nd Alderman Murphy, Aye - Alderman Walker-Robin, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Farsace Ney - Alderman Briones, Abstain - None, Motion passes

**Emergency Management** - Fire Department Report provided by Riverside Fire Rescue Jim Taylor reporting. August and September, 4 calls, 1 line down, 3 medical related  
Sheriff Report provided by Captain Woodrow Painter - not in attendance, report emailed to Mayor Stone and City Clerk

**Codes Report** - September 2021 Report by Code Enforcement Officer Cathy Grove - 1 violation written. Of the July, August & September violations 1 is contracted and 1 has a case filed

**Venetian Gardens Homes Association Report** - Mary Head, Meeting will be held October 23, 2021 outside at city hall at 1:00pm.

### **Public Discussion**

Sharron Delafuente - Asked if the budget had been revised for the 2021 city taxes.

Teresa Olson - States that minutes posted should include public discussion section.

Weezy - Thank you for the HOA Mowing behind his property, would like to work with city on the Community Garden and asked permission to clean and repaint the Houston Lake city signs at city entrances

## Permits

Burn Permit - 5527 NW Venetian Dr Motion Alderman Murphy, 2nd Alderman Farsace, Aye - Alderman Briones, Alderman Farsace, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Walker-Robin, Ney -None, Abstain - None. Permit Approved

Building Permit -5331 NW Edgewood Circle contingent approval for more information and payment Motion Walker-Robin, 2nd none Permit not Approved Tabled until permit is complete

**Treasurer's Report** Motion Alderman Briones, 2nd Alderman Murphy, Aye - Alderman Walker-Robin, Alderman Briones, Alderman Farsace, Alderman Murphy, Ney -None, Abstain - None. Report Accepted

**Resolution No 10.11.2021** Motion Alderman Murphy, 2nd Alderman Briones, Aye - Alderman Briones, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Farsace, Alderman Walker-Robin, Ney -None, Abstain - None. Resolution Passed

## Old Business

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Mayor Stone is speaking with a consultant to be sure of what expenses are authorized under the ARPA. Sewage is an expense that can be included in this and he is looking into grinder pumps and their piping to be included in these funds. Could also be used for pay increases of staff that have not received an increase recently. Report from the consultant should be available at the November meeting.

## New Business

Grinder Pump Ordinance Amendment - Mayor Stone presented to reduce the grinder pump fees for residents with grinder pumps. They have been underfunded in the past and repairs exhausted this account. Fees were raised and there is a surplus in the fund. An ordinance can be written to reduce the yearly amount paid by residents and present it at the November meeting. The amount would be reduced from \$480 to \$90 a year. The current budgeted amount would not be enough to cover the historical expenses without using the surplus.

Licensing and Registering Tenants - Mayor Stone presented to have renters, both long term and short term be registered with the city and rental owners obtain a license from the city. Air BnB owners are open to a \$100 a year licensing fee.

**Adjournment** Motion Alderman Farsace, 2nd Alderman Murphy, Aye - Alderman Briones, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Walker-Robin, Alderman Farsace, Ney -None, Abstain - None.

**Meeting adjourned 10:01pm**

**Permits from the City of Houston Lake: 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 Alderwoman. **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.****



*Home Is Where The Heart Is*

## **Houston Lake**

It's the nicest place around  
Be careful when you go swimming  
We don't want anyone to drown

Watch out for the geese  
If you know what I mean  
Once you walk though it  
Your shoes are hard to clean

The beavers eat our trees  
The flowers can make you sneeze  
I don't care what they say  
I love Houston Lake, and that's where I am going to stay

It's a fourth class city, how does it survive?  
The people living here keep it alive  
Houston Lake is our little town  
It's one of the best places around

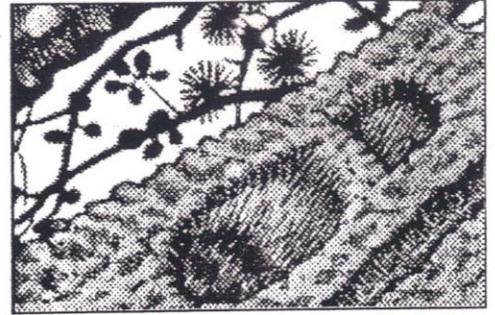
The rest of the world seems to be in such a mess  
We all need to thank God that our community is so blessed

**Editor's Note:**

Julie was a home owner at  
Houston Lake at the time  
this poem was published

# Heaven At Our Feet

by Julie Sutton



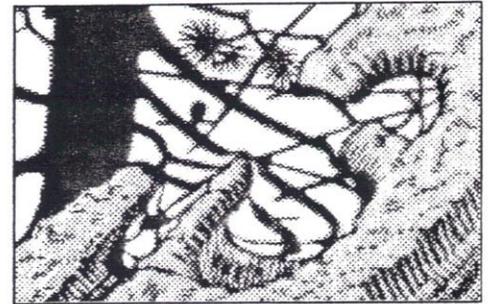
I've yet to meet you, neighbor  
But our soles touch common ground:

The blessing of residing  
In this quiet little town—

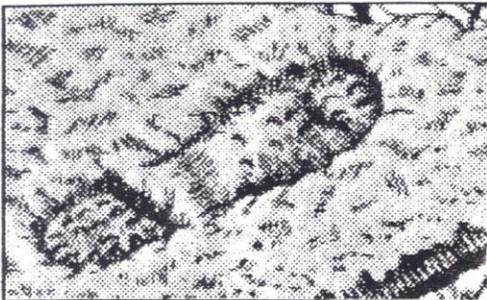


A haven tucked just out of sight  
Where we have made our home...  
A garden spot...a fishing hole...  
A path where kids can roam.

I wave to you in passing  
And we trade a friendly smile  
As you're walking your four-legged friend  
Or biking with your child.



And though words don't always pass between us,  
Something else is there...  
The choice, unspoken secret  
That all Houston Lakers share.



And maybe it's why, come what may,  
We know that life is sweet:  
We sense that there's a piece of Heaven  
Right beneath our feet.

# **Attention Houston Lake Residents**

Both new comers and long time home owners, please start coming to the City Meetings and to the Home Owner's Meetings. They both have one meeting a month.

Houston Lake always has been and always will be a very unique community because of the common goals and ideas we all share.

By coming to these meetings is an excellent way to meet everyone living at Houston Lake and to see what is being planned for the future and learn a little about our fantastic history. It is also a great place to hand out business cards ... :-)

**Both the City's Meetings and the HOA's Meetings are held at Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 N. Adrian Ave, Houston Lake, Missouri 64151**

**City Meetings are held the second Monday of each month  
The Next City Meeting is: December 13, 2021**

**The Venetian Gardens Homes Association is held the third Wednesday of each month  
The next HOA meeting will be: Feburay 16, 2022**

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Best wishes to you,  
Marlene