

## TOO MANY GEESE ON SMALL LAKES CAUSE IMBALANCE OF WATER AND ECOSYSTEM

By Katherine Stockbauer

Did you know the average lifespan of a goose is 24 years? Did you know that 1 goose defecates ONE THOUSAND (1,000) POUNDS OF FECAL MATTER "POOP" PER YEAR! (that's 24,000 lbs of poop over one goose's lifetime, defecating about 28 times per day)

Excessive goose poop, containing both Phosphorous and Nitrogen, is adversely affecting our lake water and quality. This excessive goose poop in our lake water leads to excessive plant growth in the water, murky water, harmful algae blooms, dead zones and oxygen depletion (which kills fish.) ALL THINGS WE COMPLAIN ABOUT!!!

WE MUST AGGRESSIVELY CHASE THE GEESE FROM AND CONTROL THE FUTURE POPULATION OF GEESE ON OUR SMALL LAKE

Chasing Off Interloping Geese Our lake is but a 17-20 acre lake. The HOA has approved and ordered a couple Bird Banger and Screecher launchers and cartridges to be used strategically to scare/chase interloping geese



## Venetian Gardens Homes Association 2023 Dues

The 2023 HOA dues statements will be mailed January 31, 2023. The annual dues are \$450, and they will become delinquent on March 2, 2023. Late payments are charged a 10% penalty each year. Payments may be mailed to Venetian Gardens Homes Association 5417 N. Adrian Ave., Houston Lake, MO 64151, or they may be delivered by using the HOA mailbox on the front porch of City Hall. If you have questions, you may contact the Treasurer, Susan Hodges at 816.786.2377, or email her athodges.susan@outlook.com.

## Traffic, Parking and Plows

Reminder that the speed limit within city limits is 15mph (Section 320.030. General Speed Limit. [Ord. No. 318, 3-10-2008])

PLEASE keep vehicles clear of the roadway (no parking on the sides of roads) to allow for plows to come through in case of inclement weather.

Traffic is patrolled and enforced by the Platte County Sheriff's office.

## January Dates to Remember



Open Access Listening Sessions are held at City Hall on Thursdays from 7pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 9am to 10am. Visit with representatives from City Council and HOA. Saturdays they bring donuts!

Trash Pick Up is each Wednesday. Recycling will be picked up on the 2nd Wednesday each month January 11th.

January 9th - City Council Meeting at City Hall and Virtually, begins at 7:30pm. Contact cityclerk@houstonlake.gov for info.

January 18th - Venetian Gardens HOA Meeting at City Hall and virtual begins at 7:00pm. Contact Pam Freese for the virtual link

January 2nd & 9th- City Offices will be closed

City Clerk is available by appointment cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

February 4th - Art Circle Art Exchange at City Hall



# 2023

## Geese continued from page 1

sent here from Lake Weatherby and Lake Waukomis. Both Lakes do this in tandem. We need to strategically chase these interloping geese South, i.e. public lakes in KCK.

### Controlling Future Geese Population Humanely

Goose egg addling is a humane wildlife management method of population control for geese and other bird species. Addling is the process preventing eggs from hatching by treating eggs with corn oil or by removing the eggs from the nest, which is humane if done at the earliest stages of development. Addling is the humane way to limit flock growth and stabilize goose population, while not upsetting the mother goose. We need to continue the Addling process until we can drive the Goose population way down.

Not only is the goose poop horrible for our lake water quality, it is also damaging our stationary beach dock and floating dock. Goose poop is HIGHLY ACIDIC. This high acid content burns grass and burns through dock stain and varnish. Our 2 community docks are completely and continually covered with goose poop making them UNUSABLE FOR OUR COMMUNITY while causing damage to the docks themselves.

Additionally, the excessive goose poop at the park/beach area has destroyed all healthy grass endeavors and is preventing the installation of sand. I have heard from community members the desire for the HOA to clean up the park area and install sand at the beach area.



THE GOOSE POOP PREVENTS A HEALTHY GRASSY AREA. THE GOOSE POOP WILL RUIN ANY SANDY AREA. The goose poop will make the sand unhealthy for kids or adults to play in or walk barefoot on.

Teresa Olson has kindly and generously been addling our geese for the past few years. This work has GREATLY decreased the population. However, the population is still excessive and needs future control. We owe Teresa a debt of gratitude for providing this humane wildlife control process in the past and would be lucky if she would consider providing this humane service in the future. And, of course, do not feed the geese!

If we humans want safe water in which to swim, a nice beach and park area on which to play and docks from which to jump and dive, we must take steps to control the Goose Population!

## Letter from the VGHA

With the new board in place we have begun working towards the betterment of the community and health of the lake. A new website is in the process of being built which will allow residents access to information and updates from the board's committees.

Our next meeting is January 18 at 7pm at City Hall. We'd love to see you there. If you are unable to make it in person, we will have a Zoom meeting link available. The Venetian Gardens Homes Association wishes you all a happy holiday season.

Thanks for all you do!

Pam

### **UN-CLASSIFIED ADS**

Full Page	\$20.00
Half Page	\$10.00
Quarter Page	\$5.00
1/8 Page	\$2.50

Pricing is per month & includes a listing on the city website [housotnlake.gov](http://housotnlake.gov)  
To place an ad email [maryjewel40@gmail.com](mailto:maryjewel40@gmail.com)

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The Houston Laker is published in partnership with Venetian Gardens Home Association and the City of Houston Lake.

Residents are welcome to submit letters to the editor, articles and photo to [maryjewel40@gmail.com](mailto:maryjewel40@gmail.com) or [sarah.schofieldg220@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.schofieldg220@gmail.com).

We are all thankful for our neighbors and residents efforts to make Houston Lake the best city in the Northland!

# " Looking For Random Work "



If you have a project that you don't want to do or feel you can't do please call me.

Steve Fountain  
913-414-3279



Put in the ear buds and skate to a favorite tune

by Chuck Stone  
I have many fond memories of skating on Houston Lake. Taking some simple precautions has helped me skate with confidence and injury free. Unfortunately for skaters, the ice is often covered with snow or rutted and cracked due to the weather conditions when it froze. Usually, there are several days during the winter when the ice is very thick. But on those rare days when the ice is clear and smooth, it can be better than a newly swept indoor skating rink. Even thick ice will have

cracks in it. It is safe to skate over dry cracks. If the walls of the cracks show that the ice is 4 inches thick, it is safe to skate over it. Another way to check the thickness of the ice is to use a cordless drill. Cloudy ice may be unsafe. Blue ice is safest. The chart above shows the minimum ice depth for recreational activities.

- 3-inch minimum for one person and gear
- 4-inch minimum for a group of people
- 7.5 inches for a small car
- 10 Inches for a medium truck

Moving water will be the last to freeze. There is often no ice where the aerators are, but near the swim dock, the ice is still safe for skating. Do not go near the edge of the ice. A lady at Line Creek skating rink fell backward. Unfortunately, instead of accepting that the fall was coming and sitting into it, her body went stiff, and she hurt her head in the fall.

When I go skating, I'm usually more worried about injuring myself during a fall than falling through the ice. Treat ice skating like a skateboarder. Wearing a helmet or thick furry cap can protect the head in a fall. Knowing how to fall is also a good idea. Falling forward is preferable to falling backward. It's essential to relax during the fall. Relaxed and slightly bent elbows and knees will absorb the shock of the fall and prevent serious injury. Most importantly, use the buddy system when skating. Never skate alone.

## 2023 Recycling Dates

City trash and recycling services are handled by Republic Services. For assistance with your receptacles, issues with pick-up or questions about large items contact customer service at 816-254-1470 or RepublicServices.com.

Trash is picked up every Wednesday. Receptacles need to be at the curb/edge of street by 6am. Leave room for the arm of the truck to pick up and return the receptacles without causing damage to vehicles, fences, etc.

2023 Recycling Dates (2nd Wednesday):

- January 11
- February 8
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10
- June 14
- July 12
- August 9
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8
- December 13

2023 Holidays:

January 1st New Years Day - No Change pick up will be on Wednesday January 4th

May 29th MemorialDay - Pick up changed to Thursday June 1st

July 4th Independence Day - Pick up changed to Thursday July 6th

September 4th Labor Day - Pick up changed to Thursday September 7th

November 23rd Thanksgiving - No Change pick up will be on Wednesday November 22nd

December 25th Christmas - Pick up changed to Thursday December 28th

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### EMERGENCY -

- IN CASE OF A POLICE, FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY - DIAL 911
- Platte County Sheriff Non-Emergency & Animal Control 816-858-3521
- Riverside Fire Department Non-Emergency 816-372-9024
- Grinder Pump Alarm or Backup  
Text 816-394-8828 with Name & Address

### HOA OFFICERS -

- President Pam Freese 816-726-4455  
venetian.gardens.homes.assoc@gmail.com
- Vice President Wendy Thompson 816-225-1018
- Secretary Katherine Stockbauer 816-520-3931  
kakstockbauer@yahoo.com
- Treasurer/Lake Tags Susan Hodges 816-786-2377  
hodges.susan@outlook.com
- Board Member at Large Mary Head 816-741-5639  
maryjewel40@gmail.com

### CITY OFFICIALS -

- Mayor Chuck Stone 816-305-3196  
Mayor@houstonlake.gov
- City Clerk Sarah Schofield 816-394-8828  
cityclerk@houstonake.gov

### South Ward Alderwomen

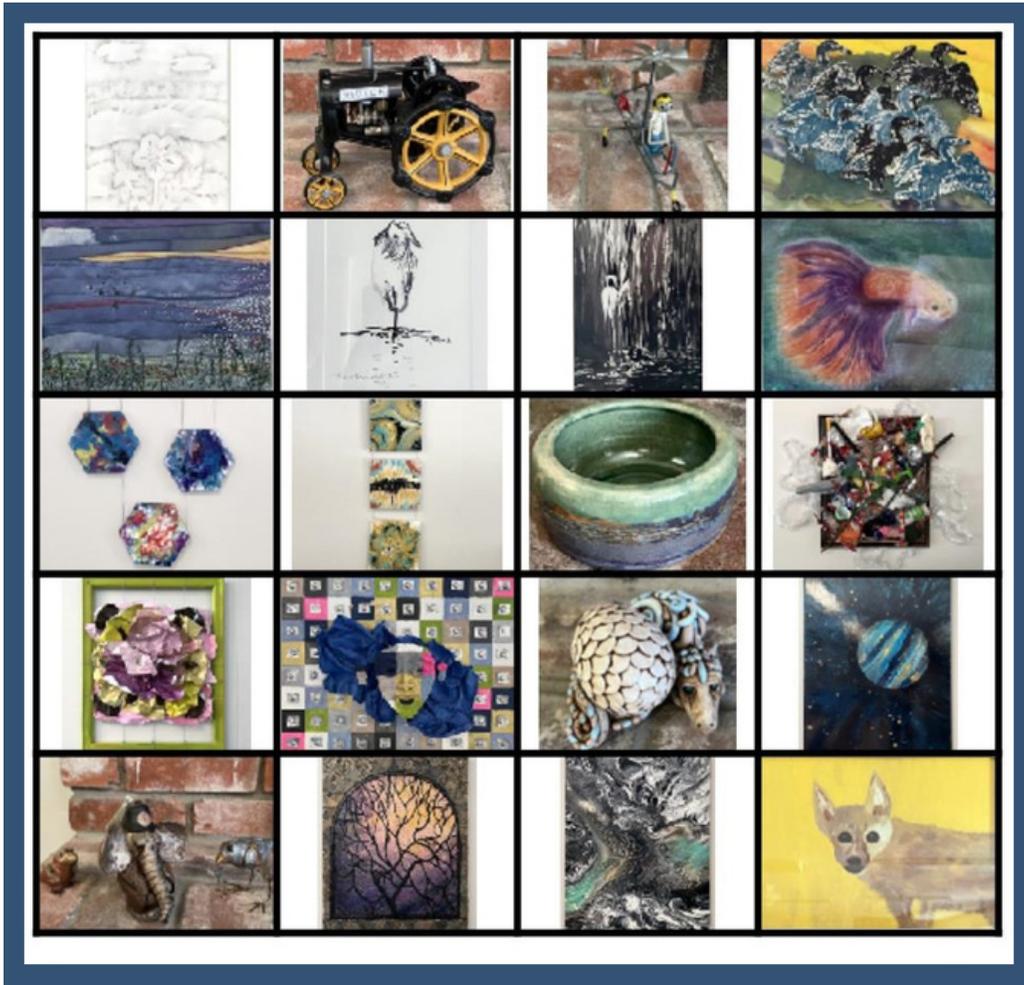
- Ashley Fuglestad  
sw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov
- Sarah Farsace 816-863-2412  
sw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

### North Ward Alderwomen

- Teena Walker-Robin 816-769-6082  
nw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov
- Annemarie Murphy 913-222-4705  
nw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov
- Codes Enforcement Cathy Grove  
913-701-7142  
codesenforcement@houstonlake.gov

As most of the HOA Officers and City Officials have full-time jobs as well, phone calls may not be answered or returned as quickly as a text or email.

City Hall is open during meetings, Listening Sessions, events and by appointment.



## Shout out to all Houston Lake Artists, Makers and Designers!

Time to refresh the art in City Hall. No theme, just whatever your heart moves you to create and share. Deadline for delivery is Sunday, February 5, 2-4 p.m. at City Hall. Works will remain at City Hall until August, the next refresh. All Art Welcome!

Sponsored by Houston Lake Art Circle



## City of Houston Lake City Council Final Minutes - November 21, 2022

**Mayor Stone opened the meeting at 7:34pm Roll Call:** Present: Mayor Chuck Stone, Alderwoman Sarah Farsace (Virtually), Alderwoman Annemarie Murphy, Alderwoman Teena Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Ashley Fuglestad (Virtually)

**Motion to Approve the Agenda for November 21, 2022:** 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Farsace; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy; Ney - None; Abstain- None. **Motion Passed**

**Motion to Approve the minutes from October 17, 2022:** 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Farsace; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney - None; Abstain- None. **Motion Passed**

### Emergency Management:

**Fire Department** - No Report No one available

**Sheriff Report** - Corporal Fugate - 4 calls/2 animal calls, Someone hanging around residence no evidence of that.

**Codes Report** - presented by Cathy Grove, Codes Enforcement Officer - Report given in the packet

**Venetian Gardens HomeOwners Association Report - Pam Freese President** Filled vacant seat with Kathryn Stackbauer. Meeting December 14th at 7pm, light refreshments. Keep Mary and Jewel in thoughts and prayers.

City Clerk Election Announcement/Information Elections and Park Survey - take 3 locations off the survey

**Public Discussion - Pamela Freese** Can Mayor update us on the roads? Mayor stated that Mayor Pro-Tem Teena Walker-Robin has been making phone calls from Mayors construction phone list. Debate between the construction crews from Spire and American Water. Mayor is taking the day off from work to meet with the companies and road crew for measuring and planning the work on Wagon Trail.

Bobbie Baker - Federal Funding for roads Where to get a recycling bin

### Permits

No Burn Permits to approve

No Building Permits to approve

**Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report** 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy; Ney - None; Abstain- None. **Motion Passed**

**Motion to approve Resolution Number 11.21.2022** 1st Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney - None; Abstain- None. **Motion Passed**

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** - None

**Motion to Adjourn** 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy; Ney - None; Abstain- None. **Motion Passed**

Adjourned at 9:01pm

Final Minutes Approved 12/12/2022

Sarah Schofield, City Clerk

## Happy New Year

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.

S E I B A B N E W Y E A R S E E V E Y  
G C H A M P A G N E T Y I M N S T T  
E N S S U E T H C D A N C E D R H R  
S Q I N F E E T O O D M U A Y O E I A  
E F C G F I N A S S L S U E R F K R P  
D H E F N F R R R I A S E D A T S  
A I U S E I A S S E B R D N I E M Y K  
R B B T E S M T I E S A F C E F R  
A M T A Y I A N N O R L A Y E S I O  
P I S W L E V R O E F T E E M I R W  
N D E A R L E I N I H J V C B O S E  
D N E T R V O N T E T E A S E N T R  
A I S W I A A O R I N A S N R O H I  
Y G Y E O B I T N T E I R R U K C F  
O H W I N E I T S S K S I O H A T S  
N T Y L I M A F N O I S A C C O R T  
E T S A E F S N O I T U L O S E R Y  
S R E Z I T E P P A Y F R I E N D S

APPETIZERS	DECORATIONS	HATS	PARADES
BABIES	END OF DECEMBER	HOLIDAY	PARTY
BALLOONS	EVENTS	HORNS	PUNCH
BANNERS	FAMILY	KISS	RESOLUTIONS
BUFFET	FATHER TIME	MIDNIGHT	SINGING
CELEBRATE	FEAST	MUSIC	STREAMERS
CHAMPAGNE	FESTIVITIES	NEW YEARS DAY	THIRTY FIRST
CONFETTI	FIREWORKS	NEW YEARS EVE	TARAS
DANCE	FIRST OF JANUARY	NOISEMAKERS	WINE
DAY ONE	FRIENDS	OCCASION	YEAR IN REVIEW



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Best wishes to you,  
Marlene