



Houston Laker Paper



February 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Things to put on your calendar!!

February 8 – City Council Meeting
7:30 pm – City Hall

February 16 – Recycling Day

February 18 – Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Board Meeting
City Hall – 7:00 pm

From the Desk of the City Clerk:

I have received several calls from people telling me that there lives a “Knight in Shining Armor” on Venetian Drive. He apparently goes around and helps “Damsels in Distress” (shoveling their driveways etc.) They told me this because they are so very grateful and appreciative. Well..... maybe he will be King someday 😊

In Memoriam



*In Loving
Memory of
James A.
Holliday, Sr.*

Born
August 28, 1926
Passed Away
January 18, 2010



James Arthur Holliday was born in Beloit Ohio in 1926. His parents were James and Emma Holliday. He had a sister Ethel, who preceded him in death.

Jim's early life had some adventure. He traveled with a carnival as a teenager. Being blind in one eye and deaf in one ear, he couldn't qualify for military service in World War II so he joined the Merchant Marines, frequently some of the most hazardous duty of the war. His first ship was the USAT Edmund B Alexander. This ship had a long and fascinating history of its own. Built in 1905 as a luxury ocean liner for a

German company, it was named the SS Amerika. Confiscated in New York harbor in World War I, it was renamed the USS America and became a troop transport, which was its function when Jim served on her in the next war with a new name of the Alexander. The ship was completely burned out twice and sank once, all before Jim ever set foot on the deck. In World War II the Alexander carried troops from New York to the European theater, dodging German submarine patrols in the Atlantic.

Jim's next ship was brand new, a T2 class tanker, one of the famous Liberty ships, the USS Clarks Wharf. It was named for the area where Paul Reveres silversmith shop was located. By this time Germany was defeated and the war effort was focused on the Japanese in the Pacific. Jim's ship carried fuel from refineries in the Gulf of Mexico through the Panama Canal and onto the Pacific.

After his discharge from the Merchant marines in 1945, Jim was headed home. Passing through Kansas City he met Lenora Kendrick, and his wandering days were over, but not his adventures. Jim and Lenora married and raised six children in a two bedroom house with no indoor plumbing. Now, there's an adventure.

Jim worked for Montgomery Wards for a few years as a service technician. He set out on his own starting the North Oak TV and Appliance Service in 1956. He dropped the TV when manufacturers stopped using vacuum tubes. He operated the business almost always as the only employee until 1991. He never made a lot of money but he always got a family discount on new and used appliances and repairs. He often provided family members with appliances when they set out on their own lives or when they just needed a little help.

At 65 Jim retired but he didn't quit working. He continued as an auxiliary officer for the State Auxiliary Police as a Lt. Col. And President for 1 year, the Clay County Sheriff's office and for several other communities north of the river. He worked as a security guard for a senior residence center. He was active in Civil Defense. He did this kind of community service until he was 80 years old.

Jim was a simple man who enjoyed simple activities, most of them shared with his family. He like to camp and fish and the family was always part of those pleasures. He continued bowling until the last few months of his life, when he just wasn't able to do it any longer. When something broke, his first thought was not to go buy a new one, but to fix it himself. He liked his little jokes such as when someone asked him "How do you feel?" the answer was always the same, "with my hands". He didn't like to make a fuss over things. When you said "Happy Birthday" he responded "It's just another day".

* Jim served the City of Houston Lake, MO. as a police officer and court bailiff. He gave almost twenty years of service to the Houston Lake community. Jim became part of the community and the community became part of him.

FROM THE DESK

OF THE CITY CLERK:

This is a little “101” on our City Election process for our new residents and those who are not familiar with city government.

The City of Houston Lake is a fourth class city, with four elected aldermen and an elected mayor, each serving two year terms. The city is divided into two wards, North and South, with two Aldermen serving in each ward. Each year two of the incumbent Aldermen terms expire, one in each ward. They are given a choice of running for re-election. A mayor is elected every other year. Our election is during the State General Election that is held every April. Any resident of Houston Lake that is a citizen of the United States, age 21 or over and has lived in Houston Lake for over one year is also given the chance to file as a candidate.

It is my duty as the City Clerk of Houston Lake and as an Official of the Election Board of Platte County to post this election notice in the Houston Laker and also in a larger circulated paper. This is according to State and local law.

If a resident wants to run for an office, they must contact me and fill out a form declaring their candidacy. This form must be signed and witnessed by myself as I must attest to the signature, time and date with my own signature and affix with the Official City Seal.

Each elected or appointed official of the City of Houston Lake takes an Oath of Office to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the Laws of the State of Missouri and the Ordinances of our City. We do not, cannot and will not make things up as we go along.

The Mayor and the Board of Aldermen encourage and welcome all of our residents to get involved with your city and Homes Association. Please come to our meetings. We’d love to see you there.

If you have any questions regarding our election process or any of our ordinances please feel free to contact me at 816-419-5051, cityclerk@houstonlake.net or mayor@houstonlake.net.

Marsha Duncan

City Clerk

Venetian Gardens Homes Association

Minutes for Jan 21, 2010

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. In attendance were: Evadene Judge, Pam Freese and Bill Gay. Mike Hallauer was also in attendance.

Mike brought to attention the records of Houston Lakers from years past that need to be organized and weather proofed. The board will purchase the containers, and organize them by month and year.

Discussion of the silt curtain, after looking at the map of HOA property map, it will not overlap any home owners property, so the board can get the silt curtain installed as soon as weather permits.

Seeding of the peninsula was discussed, the general consensus is to proceed with a fescue and rye grass mix. This is thought to be the most economical and require minimal maintenance. Evadene will check with the Nature center to be sure we've explored all our options. We'll begin pricing seed next month.

Mike brought to the boards attention about beavers working on a big tree by the bridge on Venetian Drive. The board will check the damage and wrap the trees in that area on Sunday January 24. If you have noticed beaver tree damage near the lake, please contact any member of the board, so we can take action to wrap the trees to protect them.

Next meeting Thursday Feb 18th at City Hall, 7 pm.

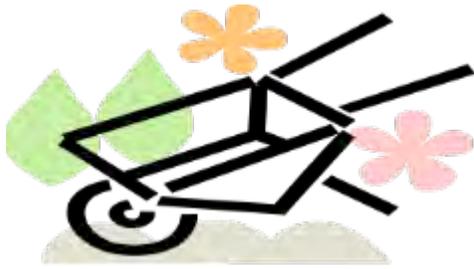
Agenda

Schedule silt curtain installation

Schedule grass seeding

Discuss the status of the work on the peninsula





Community Garden Up-Date:

“GUY’S CHILI COOK-OFF”

What an awesome community this is and what a spectacular turnout for our fundraiser. Approximately 60 people attended this event and we raised all the money we needed, and then some, for our garden this year. Yeah!!!

We had some awesome cooks too. Andrew Freese, Bill Gay, Richard Connell, Rocky Kristek, Rick Cowan, Andrew Garcia and Bob King entered their crock pots of chili for the contest. I’m glad I was not a judge because they were all fantastic. But judges Evadene Judge, Kitty Hammond and Debbie Callicott finally came to the conclusion who the winners were. Taking first place was Richard Connell. Second place went to Bob King and third place to Andrew Freese. Congratulations to all of our Houston Lake Iron Chefs!!!!

During dinner time Mayor Hallauer gave his thanks to the whole community for their time and support of the garden. He told of Mayors from Riverside, Waukomis and Platte Woods are planning their own community gardens and want to use ours as an example. He also read a note from former Mayor of Parkville and current Platte County Commissioner Kathy Dusenbery, requesting information on starting a garden. I wanted to share this with you, so please see the attached.

Our guest speaker was Jeff Hunter. I met Jeff at the North Kansas City Farmers Market last year. Jeff and his wife Stacey created Fairview Christian Church Garden and they sell a lot of their harvest at the market which in turn goes to support their church and garden. I invited Jeff to see our garden and he was very impressed with the design. He is currently helping others with community gardens and wants to use some of our ideas. Jeff also teaches Organic Gardening for the Outreach Program at North Kansas City Hospital, to children at the University of Missouri Extension and to inmates at the Cameron Correction Center.

A special, special thanks to Joyce Kulman and her family, Jo King , Angela Gay and Brittany Hallauer for all of their help before, during and after this great event. I pooped out on you but I will make it up. Promise

Ok, so here’s the latest scoop. The talk going around now is next year’s fundraiser is going to be the “girls” turn to cook with the “boys” as judges. Kerry Hollowell has already signed up. You go girl!!!! ARE WE SCARED???? Yea, right. After all, we taught them how to cook.....but I’m sick of chili.

To all of you..... “Thank you”

On Mon, Jan 11, 2010 at 12:19 PM, Kathy Dusenbery

wrote:

Mike,

Just had a meeting with several Platte County citizens who are interested in starting a community garden. There are lots of different ways of doing one and I could help but brag about the one that you all did in Houston Lake. I was just incredibly impressed with the layout and design of that facility.

Would it be too much of a problem to put into an e-mail the process you went through and when did you get started with it. Also could you include the cost to build the facility so that we can have a handle on the expense side and how many families participated in the process. Thanks for helping us out with this. One last thing I would like to set up a tour of the garden, even with the snow and cold if you don't mind.

Thanks,

Kathy Dusenbery

Secret Santa



once again, our community shows how kind, caring & generous it is.

In this holiday season, the need is great & ours is no less.

The residents & Mayor have come thru w/ gifts for the kids & food for all of us.

We can't "thank you" enough or express our appreciation enough.

God has surely blessed us.

thank you again,

Grateful
Residents

Secret Santa

*With Special
Thanks*

TO ALL OF YOU

*"To know you
is to know people
who are kind, considerate,
and thoughtful.
To know you
is to be grateful
for the special things you do."*

For everything you've done...
for being the special people
that you are...
thank you so very much.

You ALL ARE SO APPRECIATED

City of Houston Lake

Unofficial Minutes of the Council Meeting

January 11, 2009

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on November 9, 2009 at City Hall. The following members were present: Aldermen Rick Cowan, Nick Jackalone, Phil Otte, Dan Coronado and City Collector Joyce Kullman.

Opening Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Hallauer presided.

Public Discussion

No public discussion

Minutes December 14, 2009

The minutes were read and approved by general consent.

Building Permits

O building permits

Treasurers Report

Alderman Jackalone moved to accept the Treasurers report, seconded by Alderman Coronado.
Motion passed

Resolution 01-11-10 (paybills)

Alderman Cowan moved that we accept Resolution 01-11-10, seconded by Alderman Otte.
Motion passed.

Collectors Report

City Collector Joyce Kullman presented to the Council a collectors report. The total deposits for the city of \$74,487.07 were made for the period ending 12-31-09.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

A Code Enforcement Report was submitted to the Council by Mitch Kelly for the months of December 2009/ January 2010.

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowan – No report

Alderman Otte – Alderman Otte expressed his thanks to Charlie Burgess for the snow removal.

Alderman Coronado – Alderman Coronado told the Council that he has observed on several occasions, people crossing the lake on the ice. People should use caution and some common sense when attempting this.

February 8, 2010
Council Meeting Agenda
City of Houston Lake– City Hall 7:30 p.m.

1. Opening Session

2. Public Discussion

3. Minutes

4. Building Permit

5. Treasurer's report

6. Paybills – Resolution No 2-08-10

7. Collector's Report

8. Police Report/Codes Report

9. Reports from Aldermen

Mr. Cowan

Mr. Otte

Mr. Coronado

Mr. Jackalone

10. Old Business

a. Streets (Financing Proposal)

b. Potholes

11. New Business

a. Stormwater Grant

b. Johnson Trail

12. Mayors Report

13. Closed Session

a. A motion to enter into Closed Session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1) for discussion of Legal issues, RSMo 610.021(2) for Real Estate (purchasing or selling) and RSMo 610.021(3) for Personnel issues.

14. Re-enter Open Session

15. Adjournment

Alderman Jackalone –Alderman Jackalone had several residents call him and say that the snow removal was fantastic.

Old Business

a. Mayor Hallauer presented to the Council another option for financing street repair. He pointed out that the City has over \$150,000.00 in CD's. He proposed that the streets be repaired in three phases. The cost to repair all of the streets is \$300,000.00. \$100,000.00 of the CD's could be cashed in for the first phase and payments could be made back to the city thus avoiding an interest payment to a bank. He estimated that the City could make approximate payments of \$20,000 to \$22,000 to itself and then turning this back into CD's. The estimated payback time would be a 4 or 5 year period. At that time the second phase of street repair could be started. Mayor Hallauer asked for a motion to transfer the General fund CD at \$59,000.00 into the Road Fund checking account at maturity date. Alderman Cowan made such motion, seconded by Alderman Jackalone. Motion passed. Mayor Hallauer asked for a motion to transfer the Road Fund CD into the Road Fund checking account at maturity date. Alderman Coronado made such motion, seconded by Alderman Otte. Motion passed. The Mayor and the Council agreed that there will be a Town Hall meeting scheduled in February or March to explain this proposal to all of the residents.

New Business

- a. Mayor Hallauer told the Council that he received a note from KCPL, Brad Rudler the General Design Tech, regarding the new street light at the 3400 block of Edgewater Trail. He stated that this should be completed within the next 2 months. The Council approved the new street light by general consent.
- b. The Council approved by general consent to apply for a grant through the Parks and Recreation Outreach program of Platte County. This grant would be used for a new safety surfacing for the City playground. This new surface material is made of recycled tires and would never have to be replaced. The mulch that is being used currently has to be renewed every other year.
- c. The Council approved by general consent to apply for a grant through the Platte County Stormwater Management Grant Program to repair the bridge on Venetian Drive. Mayor Hallauer presented to the Council an estimate of \$77,890.00 for this repair. The repair would be to pour concrete headwalls/wingwalls and anchor this to the existing structure. It would look similar to the bridge on Adrian. This proposal was a cost estimate used for the grant request.
- d. Mayor Hallauer told the Council that an Emergency Management Director needed to be appointed and his recommendation would be Alderman Rick Cowan. Alderman Coronado made a motion to appoint Alderman Rick Cowan as Director of Emergency Management, seconded by Alderman Jackalone. Motion passed

Mayors Report

- a. Mayor Hallauer told the Council that the City of Riverside has given us another truck. This is a 1997 F-350 with a snow blade. The Council expressed their gratitude and accepted the truck unanimously. They also voted to donate the yellow truck to the City of Avondale. "Thank You" City of Riverside.
- b. Mayor Hallauer also thanked Charlie Burgess for the outstanding snow removal.
- c. Mayor Hallauer read a "Thank You" card from Mary Head and Kathy Anchors to the Council for gift cards given to them for their work on the Christmas decorations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm

**Financial Statement
City of Houston Lake
As of December 31, 2009**

Income - Period Covered July 1 - December 31, 2009

General Fund	39,635.73	
Road Fund	5,610.52	
Police Training Fund	1.46	
Sewer Fund	9.22	
Fire Protection Fund	15.74	
Total		\$ 45,272.67

Expenses - Period Covered July 1 - December 31, 2009

General Fund	33,649.20	
Road Fund	5,103.80	
Sewer Fund	2,621.60	
Fire Protection Fund	9,500.02	
Total		\$ 50,874.62

Total Funds as of December 31, 2009

General Fund	67,399.16	
Road Fund	18,382.77	
Police Training Fund - closed Oct 2009		
Balance Transferred to General Fund		
Sewer Fund	6,039.13	
Fire Protection Fund	7,388.98	
Municipal Court Account	234.75	
Municipal Court Bond Account	519.75	
Transportation Sales Tax Receipts (as of 09/30/09)	30,133.45	
General Fund CD - matures 10/09	22,592.95	
General Fund CD - matures 01/10	59,865.53	
Road Fund CD - matures 02/10	17,061.96	
Road Fund CD - matures 10/09	55,189.23	
Sewer Fund CD - matures 01/09	16,670.24	
Total		\$ 301,477.90



MID-WINTER CHORES AND OTHER FEBRUARY GARDENING TIPS

By Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension Professor

It's hard to be inspired about gardening when the ground is frozen and wintry winds howl outside your window. But that doesn't mean you can't get into gardening this month.

While February is still too early to start most seeds indoors, it's the right time to prepare for seeding by purchasing seed flats, containers, and peat pellets, as well as check your cold frame for needed repairs. It's also a good time to finish up your seed order, if you haven't done so already.

If you want to grow your own celery, leek, or onion transplants, February is the time to start them because these slow growers need several months before they are ready to set out. This also is the time to start small-seeded flowers such as begonias and petunias

You also should take a walk around the garden to check for ice and snow damage to shrubs, evergreens, and trees. Look for damage by rabbits and rodents, too. Install hardware cloth around stems to protect against further damage.

February is a great time to think about the birds. In addition to keeping the feeders full, you can attract them to your yard and garden next spring by building a birdhouse now.

There are a few things to keep in mind. First, the size of the entrance must be proportionate to the type of bird you want to attract. You also will need to provide a rough surface both inside and outside the entrance to facilitate access.

In addition, ventilation holes are important. When you put up your birdhouse this spring, be sure to place it at least six feet off the ground to keep cats, raccoons, and other predators away. A protective collar hung just below the birdhouse also deters unwelcome visitors.

Still looking for gardening inspiration?

Subscribe to a new gardening magazine. Contact your local garden club for a list of upcoming programs. Sign up for a workshop, lecture, or course at your local garden center.

Other activities for February: surprise your favorite relative or friend with a floral bouquet on St. Valentine's Day; check out the mid-winter inventory clearance sales at your local greenhouse or garden center; cut back geraniums, hibiscus, and other houseplants for repotting next month.

2010 Census Form

Everyone will get a 10 question questionnaire that will not be as intrusive as the last Census.

Answer the 10 questions, send it back and you will NOT hear from the Census again for another 10 years.

If you DO NOT answer the 10 questions you WILL get a visit from a Census worker.

The Census person will have -

1. An official Department of Commerce badge. (it will not be a photo badge)
2. A black cordura brief bag with a LARGE U.S. Census Logo on it.
3. They will NOT ask any questions about bank accounts, social security numbers (It's the government. We have it already) or donations.

If anyone has questions they can ask me, Dan Coronado AMR, Assistant Manager for Recruiting for Platte, Clay, Jackson, and Cass counties at 816-565- 4031. Also, if anyone is interested in working for the 2010 Census they can call me also.

The 2010 cense form has just 10 questions to answer. They are: (1) How many people are in your household? (2) Are there any additional people staying there? (3) Is the home owned? Rented? (4) What is your telephone number?(5) What are the names of all people living there? (6) What is their sex? (7) What is their age and date of birth? (8) Are any household member of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin? (9) What is each household member's race? (multiple choice) (10) Does any member sometime live or stay somewhere else?

If someone at your door DOES NOT have a badge or brief bag with the official Census 2010 logo on it they should close the door and call the sheriff and report that person (try to get a description, clothing color, male, female, hair color, what direction they went, etc). The person claiming to be a Census worker may just be a CON MAN or a BURGLAR trying to gain access to your home. Especially older residents, who may be easy targets.

When you fill out your form make sure you use HOUSTON LAKE as your City, NOT Kansas City as your home address or CORRECT the form you receive. We are our own Town, not a suburb neighborhood of Kansas City. Any Federal Funding that might be allocated needs to come to HOUSTON LAKE, MO. not Kansas City.

BBB Alerts Consumers about U.S. Census Workers: Be Cooperative, But Cautious!

5/6/09

Kansas City, MO - For years, Better Business Bureau has educated consumers about not giving out personal information over the telephone or to anyone who shows up at their front door. With the U.S. Census process beginning, BBB advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race and other relevant data.

“Most people are rightfully cautious and won’t give out personal information to unsolicited phone callers or visitors, however the Census is an exception to the rule,” said David Buckley, BBB spokesperson. “Unfortunately, scammers know that the public is more willing to share personal data when taking part in the Census and they have an opportunity to ply their trade by posing as a government employee and soliciting sensitive financial information.”

The Census data will be used to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds every year, as well as determine a State’s number of Congressional representatives. Households are actually required by law to respond to the Census Bureau’s request for information.

During the U.S. Census, households will be contacted by mail, telephone or visited by a U.S. Census worker who will inquire about the number of people living in the house. Unfortunately, people may also be contacted by scammers, who impersonate Census workers to get access to banking and financial information. Law enforcement in several states have issued warnings that scammers are already posing as Census Bureau employees and knocking on doors asking for donations and Social Security numbers.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don’t know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. Census workers will not ask for banking and financial information nor will they solicit donations.
- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the look out for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Happy Valentine's Day

from

The Works by Marlene

816.587.1550

by appointment only

A Full Service Salon in Your neighborhood

Consultations Always Free

*Convenient Hours
To Fit Your Needs*

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Great for Last Minutes Gifts*

Over 25 Years of Experience!

Best Wishes to You,

Marlene



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America's pioneer in natural products.*

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