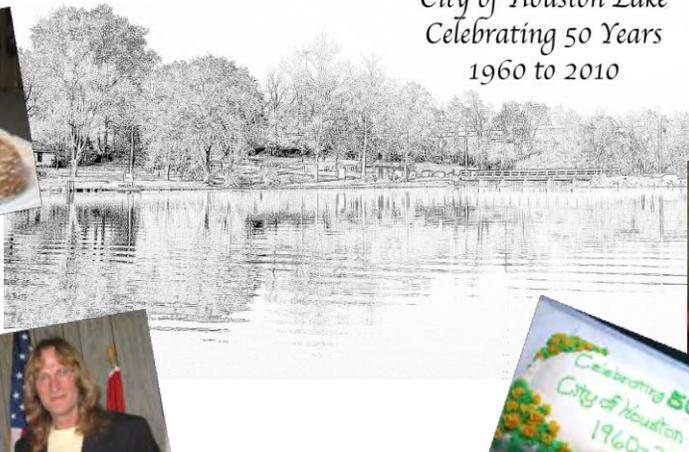


Celebrating 50 Years

November 13th, 2010



*City of Houston Lake
Celebrating 50 Years
1960 to 2010*



Houston Laker January 2011



City Events

**January 10 - City Council Meeting
7:30 pm - City Hall**

January 19 - Recycling Day

**January 20 - Venetian Garden Homes Association
Board Meeting
7:00 pm - City Hall**

Happy New Year!!!!

From the Desk of the City Clerk:

Just a little reminder that there have been some changes in the Homes Association board members and City Officials. You will find in this edition the new names and contact numbers of the Board and City Officials as well as the 2011 Recycle schedule. Please keep a copy of this special edition of the Houston Laker as it contains very useful information.

January 10, 2011
Council Meeting Agenda
City of Houston Lake – City Hall 7:30 p.m.

1. Opening Session

2. Public Discussion

3. Minutes

4. Building Permits

5. Treasurer's report

6. Paybills – Resolution No 01-10-11

7. Collector's Report

8. Police Report/Codes Report

9. Reports from Aldermen

Mr. Cowan

Mr. Otte

Mr. Coronado

Mr. Davis

10. Old Business

11. New Business

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

City of Houston Lake
Unofficial Minutes of the Council Meeting
November 15, 2010

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on November 15, 2010 at City Hall. The following members were present: Aldermen Phil Otte , Dan Coronado, Rick Cowen, Perry Davis 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 October 11, 2010

The minutes were approved by general consent.

Building Permit

The Council, after much discussion, approved by general consent building permits for a room addition at 3520 NW Edgewater Trail and a replacement of a room addition at 5279 NW Edgewood Trail.

Treasurers Report

Alderman Cowan moved that we accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Alderman Coronado.

Motion passed.

Resolution 11-15-10 (paybills)

Alderman Cowen moved that we accept Resolution 11-15-10, seconded by Alderman Otte.

Motion passed.

Collectors Report

City Collector Joyce Kullman's presented the collectors report to the Council. The total deposits for the City of \$73,139.60 were made for the period ending 10-31-10.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

Codes Enforcement Officer Mitch Kelly presented the Council with his reports for the months of October/November 2010 and September/October 2010. A Platte County Sheriff's report for the month of October was also submitted.

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowen – Alderman Cowen noted that he received the “Are you Ready” brochures and they will be at City Hall.

Alderman Otte – Alderman Otte wished everyone “Happy Holidays”.

Alderman Coronado –Excused

Alderman Davis – No report

Old Business

New Business

Mayors Report

a. Mayor Hallauer addressed the Council with the “Year in Review”. He noted the many things that the Council had accomplished in the year 2010: 2 new street lights were put in, Perry Davis was elected, City Clean-up, the sale of 2 city lots, the Multiple Hazardous Plan was adopted, City records were being copied to flash drives, the new playground mulch was put in the City Park, July 4th celebration, Police Office at City Hall was renovated, Johnson Trail was fixed, new entry signs, sewer mapping, brush pick-up, the paving of the streets, a new bridge on Venetian and the wonderful 50th Anniversary of the City. A very busy year, indeed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm

City of Houston Lake
Official Minutes of the Council Meeting
December 13, 2010

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on December 13, 2010 at City Hall. The following members were present: Aldermen Phil Otte ,, Rick Cowen, Perry Davis and City Collector Joyce Kullman. Dan Coronado was excused.

Opening Session

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

Public Discussion

Martha Edmunds, co-chair of the Safety Committee for Southeast Elementary PTA, spoke to the Council regarding the expansion of N. Northwood road from 52nd Street to Prairie View Road. This will include drainage (sewer) curbs and sidewalks. She told the Council that the safety of the children and their families that walk their children to and from school and the many school buses that utilize this road are the top concerns of the Safety Committee. She asked the Council for a letter of support to be submitted to the Public Improvement Advisory Committee for this road improvement. The Council unanimously agreed to support this effort.

Minutes November 15, 2010

The minutes were approved by general consent.

Building Permit

No building permits

Treasurers Report

The Council discussed raising the Road Fund budget. Alderman Cowen made a motion to raise the budget by \$5000.00, seconded by Alderman Otte.

Motion passed

Alderman Davis moved that we accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Alderman Cowen.

Motion passed.

Resolution 12-13-10 (paybills)

Alderman Davis moved that we accept Resolution 12-13-10, seconded by Alderman Otte. Motion passed.

Collectors Report

City Collector Joyce Kullman's presented the collectors report to the Council. The total deposits for the City of \$18,212.51 were made for the period ending 11-30-10.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

Codes Enforcement Officer Mitch Kelly presented the Council with his reports for the months of November/December 2010.

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowen – Alderman Cowen noted that the 50th reception turned out very nice. He also stated that someone at the Homes Association meeting asked that the City discuss the cannon that is used at the 4th celebration. He said he did a short poll at the meeting whether people wanted the cannon or not and it showed a 50-50 split. He was also asked if a compromise could be reached that maybe it could be shot off every other hour. Mayor Hallauer asked for a motion from the Council to eliminate the cannon altogether. No motion was made. Alderman Cowen also asked the Council to participate in the April 28th county wide emergency operation “The Great US Central Shake Up” at 10:15 am. He has pamphlets called “Are you Ready” to give to the Council for distribution to their constituents.

Alderman Otte – Alderman Otte commented on how nice the new City sign was. He also asked for a list of people authorized to call the grinder pump repair company, Haynes Equipment. Mayor Hallauer informed him that only himself and City Clerk, Marsha Duncan have permission to call Haynes for a repair and that information is also in the Houston Laker and on the City website.

Alderman Coronado – Alderman Coronado gave thanks to the organizers of the reception. He added that he was sorry that some of the older residents were not able to attend. He thanked all the Houston Lake residents for the good census results, a78% participation. This was above the national average of74%. He cited that Platte County had a79% participation. He stated that he also is keeping an eye on the staging area at the dam to make sure that they make it right. He’s also is still looking for the last manhole cover and will have a completed map at the next meeting.

Alderman Davis – Alderman Davis gave his thanks to the Reception organizers for a great party. He noted how great the street signs look and also all the Christmas decorations.

Old Business

New Business

Mayors Report

a. Mayor Hallauer gave the Council a copy of a letter he received from the Platte County Parks & Recreation showing a positive report on the inspections of Outreach Grant Projects that were funded within the last 10 years.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Venetian Gardens Homes Association

The monthly meeting for the Venetian Gardens Homes Association (VGHA) was held at 7pm at the home of Kerry Hallowell. Officials in attendance were Bill Gay, Nick Jackalone, Al Horine and Kerry Hallowell.

Members in attendance were Gil Hughes, Richard Connell, Jewel and Mary Head, and Todd LaGesse.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Old business- Weather has postponed the sealing of the pedestrian bridge. Kerry Hallowell has offered to donate the CWF Oil Based sealer. The pedestrian bridge will need to be sealed about every 3-4 years.

New business- The need for a credit card was discussed to be used by VGHA officials to purchase needed supplies, etc. in lieu of paying out of pocket and being reimbursed a month or so later. Gil Hughes and Bill Gay from their past experience on the board discouraged use of a credit card because of a lack of a solid paper trail for bookkeeping purposes.

Discussion was open by Nick Jackalone and Al Horine about volunteering to mow the VGHA properties. Bill Gay and Gil Hughes discussed the fact that the City manages the workers pay, insurance, and equipment, also pointing out the fact that while VGHA pays half of the cost they own more the half of the property.

Treasurer's report- Checking Deposits: \$10,649.50

Checking Balance: \$30,025.46

Money Market \$ 6,328.64

CD Dredge Fund \$11,050.77

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM followed by a wonderful and fun-festive holiday gathering at Kerry's home.

Thank you for opening up your home to us all and providing so many wonderful goodies to enjoy!!!!

Next meeting will be at City Hall on January 20th, at 7:00PM



matter what the engineer's numbers pretend to prove.

Board members also worry about lawn chemicals being washed in from residential lawns upstream of the lake. The major culprit is phosphate. Once in the lake it is very difficult, if not almost impossible, to remove. Phosphate causes excessive algae growth, which in turn causes a loss of clarity in the water. Property value is a direct function of the clarity in the water. It also upsets the ecological balance of the lake causing changes in the mix of aquatic vertebrates and eventual loss of species in the lake.

Board members know that there are laws, ordinances, standards and regulations that are all intended to protect their lake, but none of them will be enforced by the state DNR, the city Public Works Department or the city Codes Enforcement Department. They will have to file a lawsuit to get any kind of fair treatment. They know that they will have to spend money and vast amounts of time along with expert witnesses and volunteer watershed monitors to develop their case. They also know that winning one case does not make the next one any easier to win, nor does it defer the next developer from acting the same as the last developer.

The developers create the erosion and sediment nuisance and should be responsible for it until the development is completed, to the last lot. A developer should not be allowed to create this problem and then walk away at the end of the civil construction, leaving everyone and no one in charge of sediment control for the next two years. It is not the Board members responsibility to clean up a developer's mess.

This is not about balance between the developers and the lakes. Balance means that some level of damage can be done by the developers and must be accepted by the lakes. It should be about keeping the lakes whole, in their pre-development environment that made them so desirable in the first place.

Houston Lake Watershed

Rain carved this ravine and washed the soil into Houston Lake



The Venetian Gardens

Homes Association was formed as a benevolent association under Missouri Law on June 4, 1946. John Banzhaf became the first president of the Homes Association.

The Homes Association oversees the lake, the dam, the beach area, Mayor's Park and the common areas surrounding the lake. All homeowners are automatically members and are assessed annual dues of \$295.00 (This is a mandatory legal requirement).

An annual membership meeting is held in October. Budgets are presented, dues are voted on and five Board members are elected to two-year staggered terms. A second membership meeting is held in April. The Board of Directors meet once a month.

Each month the community's newsletter, The Houston Laker, is hand delivered to each home and provides current information on various activities.

The responsibility of the Venetian Gardens Homes Association and each member involves the health and welfare of our lake. This encompasses several programs which involve the Watershed Management Committee monitoring upstream development, an egg shaking program to control the goose population, managing plants and monitoring the fish population.

We hope you enjoy your stay.

The Board of Directors

Watershed Management

To the new residents that make the Houston Lake Community their home, we hope that you help to pave our future. The value of your home and everyone's home in this community is directly associated with the focal point of our existence, "The Lake".

Your Watershed Management Committee monitors developments upstream. Any negative impact created upstream has a direct effect on all of us at Houston Lake.

In an effort to extend the life of our lake the Watershed Committee has worked with attorneys, engineers, the biology department at Park University and the Missouri Department of Conservation to improve our lakes eco-system and better understand our 892-acre watershed.

The Lake is home to the wild life that depends upon it and you.

Houston Lake Watershed
Management Committee

What Does Watershed Management Involve?

What Should Lake Residents Be Aware Of?

What Are Some of the Issues That Confront a Lake Board Member?

Very few people in the Kansas City metropolitan area truly care about erosion and siltation control. Downstream lakes are another issue. The property values surrounding a residential lake are a direct function of the quality of the water in the lake. Because of their downstream location, they can very easily become storm water sewage treatment plants or silt retention basins for the entire watershed above them.

State riparian law requires that the runoff during construction and after construction not exceed the predevelopment volume and velocity or be less than the predevelopment quality. This never happens. Board members realize that this is the key to all of their water quality problems. If volume, velocity and material content are not controlled at the site of the development, all is lost.

Board members know that the developers in a watershed will be motivated to install the cheapest solution. This means that they will come in, clear the site, throw up some silt fence and maybe build some kind of undersized outfall retention basin with an ineffective outlet structure. Observation has shown us that once this is done there will be no maintenance of the silt fence or maintenance of the basins. The developer met the requirements of the plans on the one sunny day that the inspector signed them off and that is it! Nothing else will be done for the next three years that the subdivision is under construction. Once the project is accepted by Public Works the developer's liability for the nuisance he created ends, even though the nuisance exists for two or three more years.

Board members worry about the cost of removing silt from their lake. The lifting cost is about \$20.00 per cubic yard, if they have a place to store the silt. If they have to truck it away the cost can be \$30.00 per cubic yard. A single 10-year rain at a vulnerable time can bring hundreds of cubic yards of silt into a lake or thousands of dollars worth of damage.

Board members worry about how they will remove all of the Styrofoam, pop bottles, oil cans, waste boards, tires and other garbage that wash in from construction sites, gas stations, fast food stores and apartment complexes. Surface trash before a rainstorm becomes a like pollutant after a rainstorm.

Board members know that because of the high velocity release rate that the developer's engineer sold to the Public Works Department that the stream banks are eroding below the development. As the stream banks erode, trees and bush fall into the stream and wash into the lake. Large quantities of silt that come into the urban downstream lake come, not from the developments themselves, but from stream bank erosion caused by excessive volume and velocity of water from developments.

Some residents have never seen such rapid lake rise and to such a height before the development began. Board members are not professional engineers and do not understand all of the rhetoric about runoff rates and retention times. They only know what they see and it isn't good and it was not happening before the development began. Common sense tells them that development in their watershed is the root cause, no



City of Houston Lake

50th Anniversary 2010

November 13, 2010 became a reminder of why we serve as elected officials. This community came together once again to celebrate and recognize our accomplishments over the last fifty years. It was heartfelt to see the people that serve/served this community and to see neighbors that have volunteered, donated and given their support to our city. Our city is unique.

Those of you that attended the fiftieth saw a renewed pride in our city. The laughter, smiles and tears that day, demonstrated a community with a big heart.

Each of you, in your own way, has helped to move this city forward. As I review records from the past I find names that I don't recognize but make note of the many special people it took to walk this fifty year path. You are the reason this city exists and you are the reason as we move forward.

If our past is any indication of our future, we will have the strength. I would like to thank you and those who are no longer with us for doing your part, in your own way.

Sincerely,

Michael Hallauer
Mayor

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CANDIDATE FILING

The City of Houston Lake, Missouri will hold an election, Tuesday, April 5, 2011 to elect the following offices:

Mayor for two (2) year term

One Alderman from Ward 1 (North) for two (2) year term.

One Alderman from Ward 2 (South) for two (2) year term.

To be a candidate for one of these offices you must file with the City Clerk, Marsha Duncan, no earlier than Tuesday, December 14, 2010 and no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday January 18, 2011. The filing forms will be made available by contacting Marsha Duncan at 816-419-5051.



From the Kitchen of.....

Food Network

I got this recipe from the Food Network show many years ago and made them for a little New Years get together. They were a hit!! They are easy to make, but I do recommend that you wear latex gloves when forming the balls as they are a little sticky. This recipe makes about 30 or 40 balls. Hope you enjoy this as much as I did.

Happy New Year!!!!

Spinach Parmesan Balls

- 1 lb package frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 5 eggs
- 1 lg. onion minced
- 10 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
- 1 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon cayenne
- 1 ¾ cups Italian style bread crumbs

Squeeze excess water from the spinach and put in a large bowl. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well by hand. Form 1 inch balls either by hand or with a small scoop. Place the balls close together on a baking sheet. Bake in the top half of the oven, 20 to 25 minutes, until firm to the touch at 350 degrees. Let cool for 5 minutes and serve.

If you have a recipe or some hints that you would like to share with us, please contact Marsha at mduncannkc@aol.com or Mary at maryjewelh@aol.com

Grinder Pump Information

Houstonlake.net

There are two sewage systems in Houston Lake. The North Ward/North Side is connected to a gravity system. The South Ward/South Side consists of a low pressure pump system and a gravity system. The low pressure system pumps sewage uphill to a point where it connects to the gravity system. Each home connected to the pump system requires wastewater to be collected in an underground storage tank on their property. When this tank becomes full the grinder pump goes on and the waste is pumped into a low pressure line that eventually connects to a gravity line. The pumps are maintained by the city. Every residence connected to the low pressure system has a pump on their property. The pump is maintained by an annual fee of \$120.00. This fee is collected with the property tax statement each year. The money is set aside by the City in a Sewer Fund only to be used to repair / replace a failed pump.

There are a few things that can be done to help prevent premature failure of these pumps. The grinder pump is capable of accepting and pumping household waste. It is recommended that you use a liquid detergent for laundering. Regulatory agencies advise that the following items **should not** be introduced into any sewer, either directly or through a kitchen waste disposal unit: **Glass, Diapers, Socks, Rags or Cloth, Metal, Plastic (toys, utensils, etc.), Seafood Shells, Sanitary Napkins or Tampons.** Do not use caustic solutions for drain cleaning. If you must use a drain cleaner, use an enzyme cleaner. Do not connect gutter downspouts or sump pumps into a sewer system.

In very cold weather a pump can freeze if there is no water usage in the house. If you are going to be gone during the cold weather have a friend, relative or neighbor run hot water down the sink every day or two.

CAUTION: Do not disconnect power to the pump. The grinder pump cannot dispose of wastewater without electricity. If electrical power is interrupted, keep water usage to a minimum. The grinder pump is installed with a warning device (yellow light / or horn). The yellow light should be removed and tested periodically.

If you have any questions or if you think that your pump needs repair please call a city official or the City Clerk, Marsha Duncan, at 816-419-5051 or e-mail cityclerk@houstonlake.net



Community Garden Update

“Fund Raiser Dinner”

We have a date and time set for the Community Garden “Fund Raiser” event. It will be February 19, 4:00 pm at City Hall. The sandwiches will be sloppy joes and the soup will be provided by the contestants.

All contestants (girls only please) need to bring their crock pots of soup by 3:00 pm for the judging. I need 3 willing volunteer guys to taste and judge each soup. It’s a dirty job (hehehe), but someone has to do it. We will have 1st, 2nd & 3rd place prizes to give out as well as a good time with neighbors.

We have, so far, 5 entries for the contest. Kerry Hallowell, Maria Kristek, Angela Gay, Pam Freese and Kelli King. You can make any soup that you want. And February is the right time of year for a warm bowl.

This again is for a great cause...a watering system for our Community Garden. Any donations, no matter how big or small are so very welcome. We also welcome any ideas on the “how to install” watering systems. If you have any ideas, please give me a call, Marsha Duncan at 419-5051 as I would like to discuss these at the Fund Raiser.

So, come on all you little soup makers, give Angela Gay or myself a call and sign up!!!

CITY OFFICIALS CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE

Mayor

Michael Hallauer
215-9138
(mayor@houstonlake.net)

City Clerk

Marsha Duncan
419-5051
(cityclerk@houstonlake.net)

City Collector

Joyce Kullman
547-8173

Alderman (Ward 1 So.)

Perry Davis
587-8614
(Sw1-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 1 So.)

Rick Cowen
741-2730
(Sw2-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 2 No.)

Phil Otte
741-5477
(Nw1-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 2 No.)

Dan Coronado
584-2667
(Nw2-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Municipal Judge

Greg Dorsey
785-4284

Court Clerk

Sharon Brandt
785-4284

Codes Enforcement Officer

Mitch Kelly
584-9361
(mkelly@houstonlake.net)

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION

President

Bill Gay
584-9548

Vice President

Nick Jackalone
587-0028

Treasurer

Kerry Hallowell
695-4100
(Lake Tags)

Secretary

Al Horine
746-5315

Board Member

Evadene Judge
726-4456

Houston Lake Watershed Management Committee

Michael Hallauer
215-9138

Registrar

Editor – Houston Laker

Mary Head
741-5639
(editor@houstonlake.net)

Sewer Grinder Pumps

Marsha Duncan
419-5051

**For more City and Homes Association Info
go to**

Houstonlake.net

F Y I

ARTICLE II. PERMITS

SECTION 500.100: BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED

All persons desiring to construct, erect, alter or add to any building, boat dock, fences, road or drive or any structure in the City of Houston Lake, Missouri, **must first obtain a building permit** for such construction, alteration or addition from the Board of Aldermen of said City. (Ord. No. 282 §2, 10-14-02)

SECTION 500.110: PERMIT APPLICATIONS

All persons desiring to obtain such a permit shall submit an application with the complete plans and specifications and plot plan for such construction showing sizes, estimated cost and details of such proposed construction and the location of such construction upon the plot of land. No new dwelling construction or property line fence construction will be permitted until after certified surveys have been filed with the Board of Aldermen. Certified surveys will be required on all additions to old dwellings where the new construction will be closer to the property line than the old dwelling. (Ord. No. 282 §3, 10-14-02)



Important Notice

Your trash pick-up day is **every Wednesday**. Your **recycling** day will also be on a Wednesday.

Your items must be curbside by 7:00 a.m.

Maximum of 10 bags per household.

Any loose material, such as carpet or building material needs to be cut down to 4 foot lengths and bound together weighing less than 50 pounds.

Any extra pick up needs that you may have, please contact Allied Waste
For scheduling call Allied Waste at
816-254-1470

The holidays that Allied Waste observe 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 pick up will be on Thursday of that week.

2011 Holiday Schedule:

Pick-up Day

New Years (Saturday 1-1-11)

Wednesday

Memorial Day (Monday 5-30-11)

Thursday 6-2-11

Independence Day (Monday 7-4-11)

Thursday 7-7-11

Labor Day (Monday 9-5-11)

Thursday 9-8-11

Thanksgiving (Thursday 11-24-11)

Wednesday

Christmas Day (Sunday 12-25-11)

Wednesday

New Years (Sunday 1-1-12)

Wednesday

2011 Recycling Schedule

This is your new 2011 Recycling Schedule.
Please keep this memo for reference.



January 19, 2011

February 16, 2011

March 16, 2011

April 13, 2011

May 11, 2011

June 8, 2011

July 6, 2011

August 3, 2011

August 31, 2011

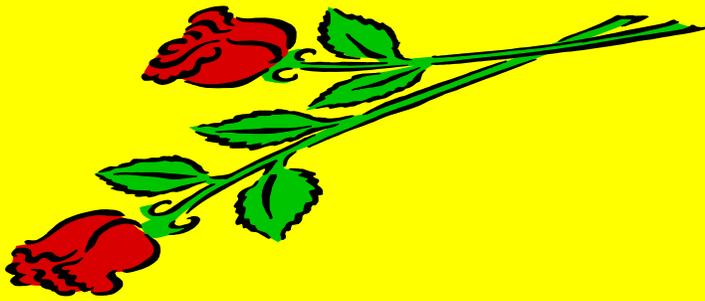
September 28, 2011

October 26, 2011

November 23, 2011

December 21, 2011





Platte City Flower Shoppe

“Gifts from the Heart”

WE can deliver flower and plants, plush and balloon bouquets to most any place you may need as we are FTD and Teleflora wire services.

The next time you visit Platte City, please feel free to stop by and browse through the many hundreds of gift items we carry.

347 Main

Platte City, MO 64079

816.858.2457

www.plattecifyflowers.com



Happy New Year!
from
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by appointment only

**If you're still not sure... call for a free
consultation!**

Over Twenty Five years of experience

**Specializing in Custom Color
Designed for Your skin tones and eye color!**

Specialty Perms for just the right look

Connected or disconnected hair cuts!!!

Waxing, Waxing, Waxing...

Paraffin for Dry Skin!

Manicures!

Pedicures!

*Happy New Year!
your neighbor,
Marlene*