

Houston Laker

Community News



November 2011



Community Events

Sunday Nov. 6th at 2:00a.m.
Daylight Savings Time Ends
Move your Clock Back One Hour!!



Nov. 11th - Veterans Day

Nov. 12th - Houston Lake Garden Club
10:00a.m. – City Hall
Everyone is invited!!!

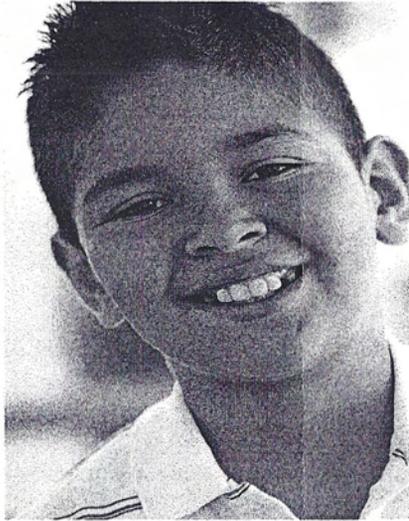
Nov. 14th - City Council Meeting
7:30p.m. – City Hall

Nov. 17th - Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Board Meeting – 7:00p.m. – City Hall

Nov. 23rd - Recycling Day

Nov. 24th - Happy Thanksgiving

**YOUR CHILDREN MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR MISSOURI
HEALTHNET, A LOW-COST HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM.**



Your children may be eligible if they:

- **Are under 19 years of age**
- **Have a social security number**
- **Are a U.S. citizen**

***Varied income guidelines**

Why not check it out? It only takes a few minutes to apply. If you have questions or would like to apply for Missouri Healthnet, please call 816-659-8272

Already on Missouri Healthnet? We can help with your annual recertification.



**Catholic Charities Caritas Center
20 W. 9th St.
Kansas City, MO 64105
816-659-8272
email: mblickhan@ccharities.com**





John McCrae: In Flanders Fields (1915)

Canadian poet John McCrae was a medical officer in both the Boer War and World War I. A year into the latter war he published in *Punch* magazine, on December 8, 1915, the sole work by which he would be remembered. This poem commemorates the deaths of thousands of young men who died in Flanders during the grueling battles there. It created a great sensation, and was used widely as a recruiting tool, inspiring other young men to join the Army. Legend has it that he was inspired by seeing the blood-red poppies blooming in the fields where many friends had died. In 1918 McCrae died at the age of 46, in the way most men died during that war, not from a bullet or bomb, but from disease: pneumonia, in his case.

Compare the mood in the first two stanzas with that in the third. Can you explain why people during the war interpreted it primarily as a pro-war poem although it was often read later as an anti-war poem? Who is the speaker in this poem? What does the speaker want his listeners to do?

In Flanders Fields



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.



We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

The name of John McCrae (1872-1918) may seem out of place in the distinguished company of World War I poets, but he is remembered for what is probably the single best-known and popular poem from the war, "In Flanders Fields." He was a Canadian physician and fought on the Western Front in 1914, but was then transferred to the medical corps and assigned to a hospital in France. He died of pneumonia while on active duty in 1918. His volume of poetry, *In Flanders Fields and Other Poems*, was published in 1919.

This is an excerpt from *Reading About the World, Volume 2*, edited by Paul Briens, Mary Gallwey, Douglas Hughes, Azfar Hussain, Richard Law, Michael Myers, Michael Neville, Roger Schlesinger, Alice Spitzer, and Susan Swan and published by Harcourt Brace Custom Books.

The reader was created for use in the World Civilization course at Washington State University, but material on this page may be used for educational purposes by permission of the editor-in-chief.

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 Cowan
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

Nick Jackalone
587-0028

Vice President

Keith Carey
746-4472

Treasurer

Jan Jackalone
587-0028
(Lake Tags)

Secretary

Al Horine

Board Member

Bill Winton
913-963-7535

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



The Houston Lake Municipal Code:

SECTION 230.025: OPEN BURNING

No person shall dispose of trash, refuse or leaves by open burning or cause, allow or permit open burning of trash, refuse or leaves unless the same is authorized by Federal or State permit.

(Ord. No. 176 §1, 5-9-88)

The Municipal Court defines open as **OUTSIDE**.

If you have any questions regarding any ordinances, please contact:

Mayor Michael Hallauer at 816-215-9138 or

Codes Enforcement Officer Mitch Kelly at 816-584-9361

November 23, 2011

December 21, 2011

2012 Recycle Schedule



**Yellow & Green Lid
Recycling Cart**

January 18

February 15

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 6

July 5

August 1

August 29

September 26

October 24

November 21

December 19



Items must be inside the cart (**Not on the ground, not on top – inside**). If you need an extra cart or would like to recycle, please notify any city official.

Recycle carts must be curbside by 7:00 am the day of pick up. Be respectful and remove your cart from curbside when finished.



Important Notice

Trash Pick-up Day



Blue Lid Trash Cart

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.
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 notify any city official.**

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 & 2012 Holiday Schedule:

Thanksgiving (Thursday 11-24-11)

Christmas (Sunday 12-25-11)

New Years (Sunday 1-1-12)

Memorial Day (Monday 5-28-12)

Independence Day (Wednesday 7-4-12)

Labor Day (Monday 9-3-12)

Thanksgiving (Thursday 11-22-12)

Christmas (Tuesday 12-25-12)

New Years (Tuesday 1-1-13)

Pick-up Day

Wednesday

Wednesday

Wednesday

Thursday 5-31-12

Thursday 7-5-12

Thursday 9-6-12

Wednesday

Thursday 12-27-12

Thursday 1-3-13

Venetian Garden Homeowners Association
November, 2011

The Venetian Garden Homeowners Association Board for year 2011-2012 has been established.

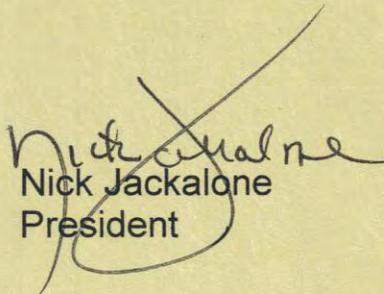
Nick Jackalone - President
Keith Carey - Vice President
Al Horine - Secretary
Jan Jackalone - Treasurer
Bill Winton - Board Member

The next meeting will be held November 17 at 7 PM at City Hall.

The Audit for 2010-2011 and the Budget for 2011-2012 will be finalized and reviewed at this meeting.

I want to extend a sincere THANK YOU to Bill Gay for serving as past President and to Evadene Judge as past Board Member. They generously gave of their time and talents through their terms.

On behalf of the Board, I would also like to extend to each and every one our Best Wishes during this Season of Thanksgiving.


Nick Jackalone
President

ANNUAL MEETING
of the
Venetian Gardens Homeowners Association
October 20, 2011

Several members of the Venetian Gardens Homeowners Association (VGHA) met at 6 PM to enjoy fellowship and a very tasty pot luck. At 7 PM the Annual Meeting was called to order by President Bill Gay. In attendance were Vice President Nick Jackalone, Treasurer Bill Winton, Board Member Evadene Judge. Secretary Al Horine was excused.

Martha Edmunds, Co-Chair of the Southeast Elementary PTA Safety Committee, requested a letter of support from VGHA. This letter would be sent to the Public Improvements Advisory Committee in Kansas City, MO City Hall, requesting funding for road improvements affecting NW 52nd to Prairie View Road and other roads within the Park Hill School District. These roads have steep drop offs, no curbs or sidewalks and make it unsafe and dangerous for pedestrians and drivers who access these roads. The letter will be considered after the new board is appointed.

The minutes from the April 14, 2011 meeting were read and approved.

The report of the Audit of the VGHA books was presented. The Audit Committee stated it would not finalize any report because of incomplete record keeping. The audit has been tabled until the November VGHA meeting. Volunteers are asked to come forward to establish another audit committee to complete the inspection. Three members are needed. Please contact Nick Jackalone at 587-0028.

Bill Gay presented a summary of activities done by the board and thanked the many members who have given their time and talents to the Association and to the lake.

The 2012 Budget was brought before the members. Two major discussions took place. Bill Gay told the members that the Bowl Out Project did not take place because the amount allotted (\$7500) was insufficient. The shortage of approximately \$1200 was caused by a need for a land survey and the original bid did not include hauling away the dirt. It is assumed that the cost of the project in 2012 would be increased due to current costs. Another bid will have to be done and finalized. To show a separation of funds on the budget for 2012, the Bowl Out Project will have funds allocated in the amount of \$10000 and the Dredge Fund will be allocated \$5000. These will be shown as separate line items. The Budget will be corrected to reflect these changes and will be finalized in the November VGHA meeting.

The second major discussion was how to take the \$7500 allocated for the Bowl Out Project and the \$7500 set aside for the Dredging Fund out of the checking account from the 2011 budget. It was agreed at last year's Annual Meeting, that if the Project was not completed all of the \$15000 would be placed into a CD for Dredging. This will be done as the process is completed for transferring signatures on the accounts at the Bank.

The members discussed raising funds for the fireworks display. Rick Cowan, the pyro-technic master, gave an explanation of the costs and how much he had to personally absorb to provide the kind of show he and his crew provides. The City has agreed to increase their donation. Members were asked to vote an additional \$500 for fireworks. The results by a show of hands was 9 in favor and 12 opposed. (One vote was disallowed because there was no proxy on file prior to the meeting for the particular lot owner.)

Members then voted on 3 new board members. Voted onto the board was Keith Carey, Bill Winton and Jan Jackalone.

Nonimations were then taken for President. Keith Carey declined as did Jan Jackalone. Nick Jackalone was nonimated and accepted by VGHA members.

Homes Association dues were voted on. 5 members voted to a \$50 annual dues, 22 members voted to keep the current \$295 dues and 2 members voted to increase to \$325.

There was no additional items presented to the board and its members. The next meeting will be held on November 17 at 7PM.

The 2011 Annual VGHA meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

10/20/2011
Budget for 2012
Venetian Gardens Homes Owners Association
October 2011 - September 2012

	<u>Allocated</u>
UTILITIES	800
SANITARY UNIT	500
GENERAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE (mowing, tree removal, brush removal ,repair and maintain existing structures such as docks and shelter houses.)	7,500
INSURANCE	3,300
SUPPLIES/POSTAGE/SAFE DEPOSIT/	600
PAPER DELIVERY	200
POTLUCKS /BIKE PARADE	600
FIREWORKS	500
ATTORNEY'S FEES/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	2,000
GIFT BASKETS	200
WATER TESTING	200
DREDGE FUND (to be used to dredge the lake)	5,000
BOWL OUT FUND (to bowl out the creek up stream of the rock dam to catch sediment before it reaches the lake.)	10,000
TOTAL	\$31,400

Please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire below. This information is vitally needed to insure that you and your family have the maximum support from your City and Platte County Emergency Management Officials in the event of a disaster. All information will be "highly confidential" and shared with no one. Please place this in a sealed envelope and deposit in the "black" mail box to the left of the City Hall front door.

Name:

Address:

Daytime phone No.

Evening phone No.

Cell phone:

Number of adults (18 and older):

Number of children:

Names and ages:

Names and ages:

Number of dogs:

Number of cats:

Is there anyone in the household who requires special medical attention?

If so, who and please provide details (oxygen, wheelchair, walker)

Is there anyone in the household who depends on insulin for diabetes?

If so, who and how much medication is needed daily.

Is there anyone in the household that suffers from heart disease?

If so, who and please provide details (pacemaker, a trial fibrillation, etc.)

Is daycare or adult daycare provided at this residence?

If so, what are the hours of operation?

How many in attendance?

Is there anyone in the household who cannot speak English?

If so, who and what language is used?

If you decline to provide this information, which is being gathered to assist local authorities in the event of a disaster, you may be jeopardizing your health and well being. For this reason, we ask that you sign the waiver below and return this form to City Hall.

I understand that I will not and cannot hold the City of Houston Lake, its Officials or Platte County Emergency Management and its Officials responsible for my welfare in the event of a disaster whether man made or weather related.

Signature

Date

November 14, 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

- a. 5464 NW Venetian Drive – Storage Shed
- b. 5323 NW Wagon Trail – Detached Garage

5. Treasurer's report - Collector's Report - Budget

6. Paybills – Resolution No 11-14-11

7. Emergency Management

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
October 10, 2011

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on October 10, 2011 at City Hall. The following members were present: Aldermen Phil Otte and Rick Cowan. Aldermen Perry Davis and Dan Coronado were excused.

Opening Session

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

Public Discussion

Resident Larry Haynes asked if he could obtain another trash container. Mayor Hallauer said that he kept extra containers downstairs at City Hall and would deliver one to him. He also told the Council that he confronted a person who was using the lake and this person said he was a guest of Mayor Hallauer's, but did not have a wrist band. Mayor Hallauer said that this person was not a guest of his. Anyone who is using the lake must have a wrist band as a guest, or be asked to leave.

Resident Nick Jackalone presented to the Council, a certificate for Emergency Management he received for training that he attended. He also offered to volunteer in Houston Lakes Emergency Management endeavors.

Minutes September 12, 2011

The minutes were approved by general consent.

Building Permit

None

Treasurers Report

Alderman Cowan moved that we accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Alderman Otte. Motion passed.

Resolution 10-10-11 (paybills)

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

Motion passed

Collectors Report

City Collector, Joyce Kullman gave her monthly report to the Council. Total deposits for the City of \$2752.28 were made for the period ending 9-30-11.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

Mayor Hallauer introduced Captain Mark Owen of the Platte County Sheriff's Department, the new captain of the patrol division.

A report from 9-1-11 to 9-30-11 was submitted to the Council from the Platte County Sheriff's Department.

Emergency Management

No report

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowan – No report

Alderman Otte –No report

Alderman Coronado – Excused

Alderman Davis – Excused

Old Business

None

New Business

a. Mayor Hallauer received a proposal to update our City Code book, 28 pages for \$504.00. 2009 was the last time the City Code was updated. The Council agreed to update by general consent.

Mayors Report

a. Mayor Hallauer received a request from Nick Jackalone to transform a city property, located adjacent to 5304 NW Edgewood Trail, into a “dog Park”. After much discussion, it was decided that because of several concerns pointed out by the Council such as liability, maintenance and concerns for neighbors, this matter would require further review.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

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

Please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire below. This information is vitally needed to insure that you and your family have the maximum support from your City and Platte County Emergency Management Officials in the event of a disaster. All information will be "highly confidential" and shared with no one. Please place this in a sealed envelope and deposit in the "black" mail box to the left of the City Hall front door.

Name:

Address:

Daytime phone No.

Evening phone No.

Cell phone:

Number of adults (18 and older):

Number of children:

Names and ages:

Names and ages:

Number of dogs:

Number of cats:

Is there anyone in the household who requires special medical attention?

If so, who and please provide details (oxygen, wheelchair, walker)

Is there anyone in the household who depends on insulin for diabetes?

If so, who and how much medication is needed daily.

Is there anyone in the household that suffers from heart disease?

If so, who and please provide details (pacemaker, a trial fibrillation, etc.)

Is daycare or adult daycare provided at this residence?

If so, what are the hours of operation?

How many in attendance?

Is there anyone in the household who cannot speak English?

If so, who and what language is used?

If you decline to provide this information, which is being gathered to assist local authorities in the event of a disaster, you may be jeopardizing your health and well being. For this reason, we ask that you sign the waiver below and return this form to City Hall.

I understand that I will not and cannot hold the City of Houston Lake, its Officials or Platte County Emergency Management and its Officials responsible for my welfare in the event of a disaster whether man made or weather related.

Signature

Date



Houston Lake Garden Club

The Garden Club met on October 15 at City Hall. Although gardening was discussed the major event was the celebration of

Betty DeLaFuente's 80th Birthday !!

We all enjoyed the birthday cake, thanks to Sharon DeLaFuente.

Our next meeting will be November 12. We will discuss our plans for our Christmas Party and a schedule for 2012. Hope to see you!



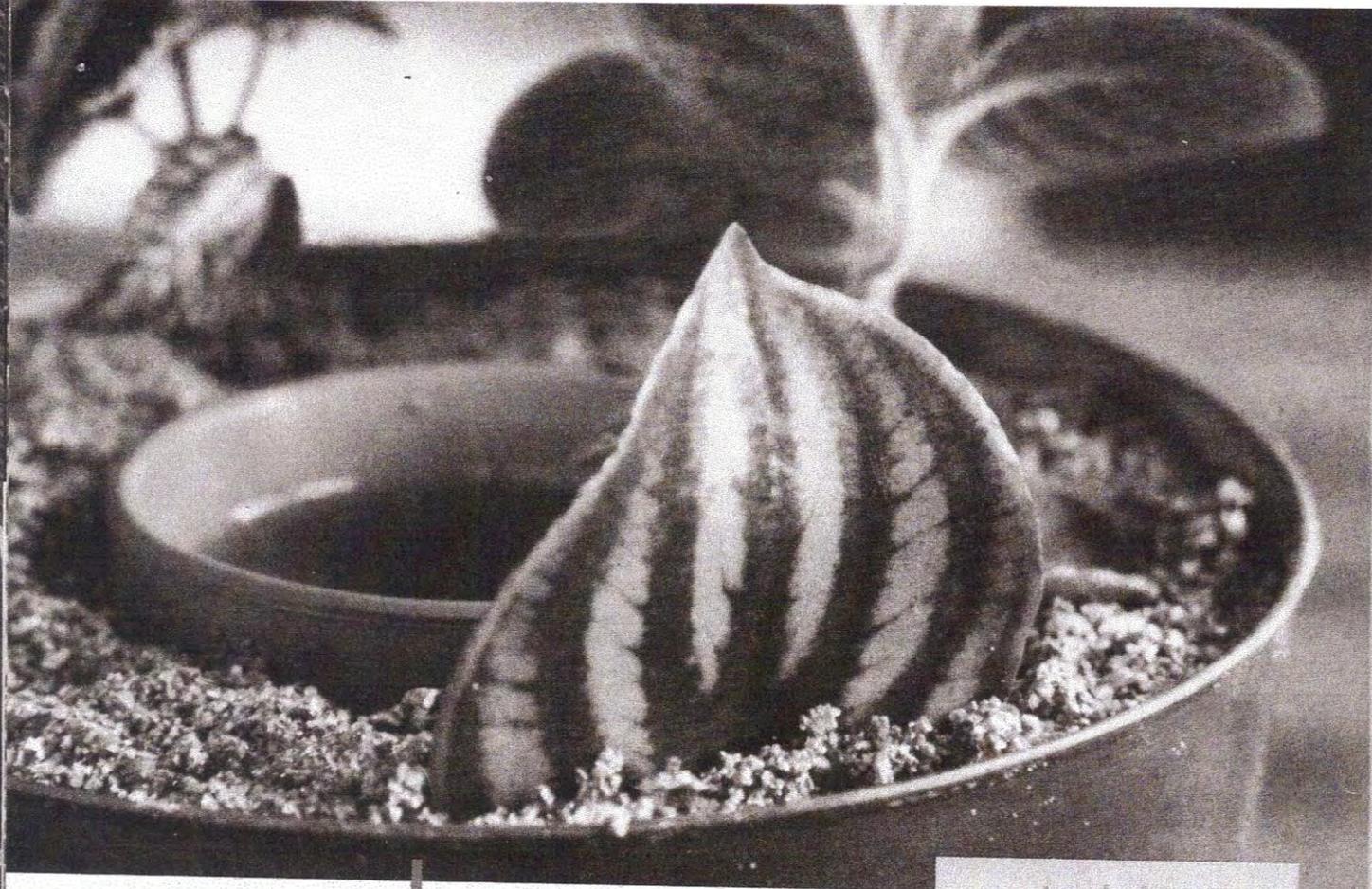
To overwinter elephant's ears, store the tuber in a cool place in fresh peat moss or vermiculite.

overwinter elephant's ears

This year, I bought an elephant's ear plant. How do I overwinter it? —William Bell, Indianapolis, IN

Elephant's ear plant, a species of *Colocasia*, is native to the subtropics. It survives winters outdoors only in climates considerably warmer than Indiana. Dig it up and bring it indoors as soon as the foliage is frost-damaged or a little earlier, especially if you intend to grow it as a houseplant over the winter months.

Most people find it easier to simply store the large tuber and replant it the following spring. To do this, dig up the tuber very carefully. Accidentally nicking it with your spade or garden fork can open it to organisms that promote rotting. Keep healthy-looking roots and cut back the stem, leaving just a few inches attached to the tuber. Cure the tuber by laying it on newspapers in a dry room with good air circulation. Turn it several times over the next few days before storing it in a cool place in fresh peat moss or vermiculite.



make more houseplants

**Don't break the bank buying new houseplants—
instead, propagate your own in a special pot.**

Here's how! by Deborah Brown

Almost everyone has started “slips” in a glass of water at one time or another. But there's a much better way to propagate most houseplants—rooting cuttings in a forsythe pot. Cuttings started in this special pot develop stronger roots that are less likely to rot before

reaching transplant size. Roots that develop this way also make the transition to potting soil more readily than weaker “water” roots, which clump together when removed from their watery environment. Using a forsythe pot is fun, easy, and all but foolproof.

materials

- Clean plastic pot about 8 inches in diameter
- Smaller unglazed terra cotta clay pot, 2½ to 3½ inches in diameter
- Paper towels
- Small cork
- Bag of fresh, horticultural-grade vermiculite
- Houseplants such as geranium, peperomia, ivy, heart-leaf philodendron, pothos, African violet, and jade plant.

method for making a pot

Line the bottom of the large plastic pot with a paper towel to cover the drain holes. (See Photo 1.) This prevents vermiculite from sifting through the holes, but allows water to drain freely. Make sure the paper towel doesn't come close to the top of the pot where it will act like a wick, drying the vermiculite.

Fill the large pot with fresh, dry vermiculite, to about 1 inch below the rim. (See Photo 2.)

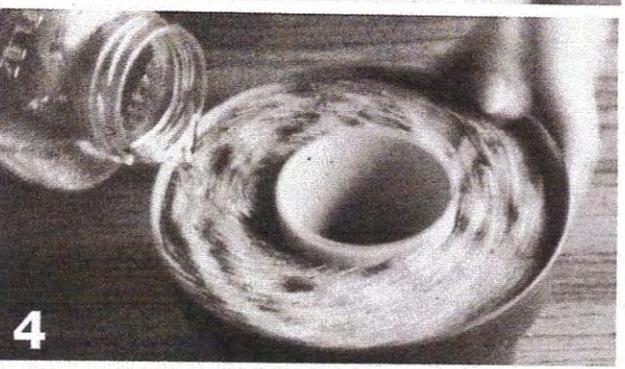
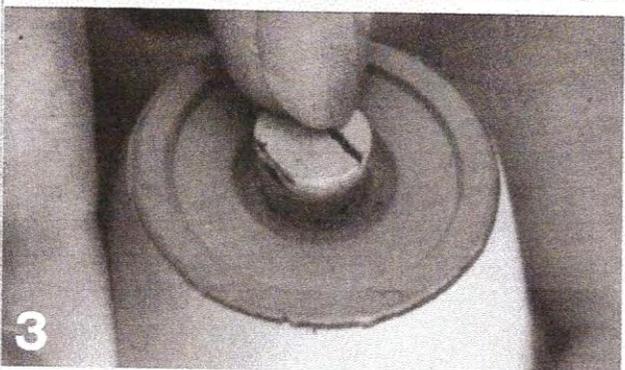
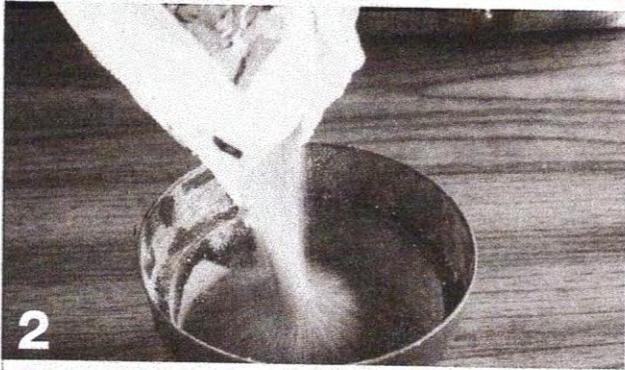
Plug the drain hole of the small terra cotta pot tightly with a cork. (See Photo 3.) The forsythe pot's success depends on a snug fit. If you're able to find a small clay pot with no drain hole, so much the better. But it must be unglazed terra cotta so water moves freely through its walls.

Screw the corked terra cotta pot into the center of the vermiculite, using a back-and-forth motion. Push it in deeply enough so the top of its rim is nearly level with the top of the vermiculite.

Water the vermiculite slowly. (See Photo 4.) Don't be too generous at first; excess water will come pouring through the drain holes.

Fill the terra cotta reservoir with water. Because its walls are porous, water will wick through them as moisture evaporates from the vermiculite. All you have to do is keep the reservoir full, and the vermiculite will stay evenly moist. Stick cuttings into the vermiculite, about 2 to 3 inches apart, in a circle around the reservoir. (See Photo 5.)

Place the completed forsythe pot in a bright location. In winter, keep the pot in a sunny window. Move it a little farther from the window in late spring or summer, when sunlight is more intense.





method for taking cuttings

Stem cuttings

Take stem cuttings that are no more than 5 inches tall. Start at the tip of a stem. Sometimes you can take several cuttings from the same stem as you work your way down. Make each cut about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below a node. The node is the point where a leaf or petiole (leaf stem) is attached to the stem. Here, we're taking cuttings of grape ivy. (See Photo 6.)

The node is an area of rapidly dividing cells. (Pictured in Photo 7 is a pilea node.) Roots often develop there, so surround it with moist vermiculite to encourage those new roots. You may have to strip off the lowest leaf in order to push the node down into the vermiculite. (Keep leaves out of the vermiculite because moist conditions will cause rotting.)

You can propagate many houseplants this way, including upright plants such as aluminum plant, geranium, oval-leaf peperomia, and velvet plant ("purple passion"). This method also works well for trailing plants such as English ivy, Swedish ivy, grape ivy, heart-leaf philodendron, pothos, zebрина, and tradescantia species.

Leaf petiole or leaf blade cuttings

You can propagate some plants, including those with leaves that grow in a whorl around a compact central stalk, by burying the base of an individual leaf blade or leaf petiole in the vermiculite. Use a knife to make a small slice in the vermiculite. Push the cutting in deeply enough to hold it upright (about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for leaf blades; more for petioles), then firm the vermiculite around it. Sometimes just a portion of a large leaf is adequate.

Plants that may be propagated this way include African violet, 'Emerald Ripple' peperomia, watermelon peperomia, oval-leaf peperomia, jade plant, sedum and other succulents, fancy-leafed begonia (use a wedge with a large vein in it), and snake plant (take a 3-inch cutting from the top, then another every few inches until you reach the base of the leaf).

Deborah Brown is professor emerita, University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Science, and "Expert Advice" columnist for Gardening How-To.



tips

- This project can be a little messy. Work on a waterproof surface that can be wiped easily.
- You should "top off" the pot with water once every day or two. If the water level goes down more rapidly than that, the small pot is not corked tightly enough.
- You can tell if roots have formed on your cuttings by tugging them gently after a few weeks. If you feel resistance, there are roots. Scoop out the cutting gently, shake off some of the vermiculite, then transfer the cutting to a small container of potting soil.
- You can re-use the container. Just add more vermiculite as you remove cuttings. After several uses, though, it's best to wash the pots in hot, soapy water, then reassemble with fresh vermiculite.
- For a fun activity for all ages, get together with other houseplant enthusiasts to build forsythe pots. Everyone brings one or two houseplants and shares cuttings. It's kind of like a cookie exchange, but without the calories!

Happy Thanksgiving!
from
The Works by Marlene
587-1550

by appointment only

*A salon in Houston Lake,
Convenient hours and
Consultations always free!*

*Hair cuts, blow-dries, up do's,
Highlights, lowlights, frosts,
Color, color, color!*

*Gift Certificates available for all occasions
Great for last minute gifts!*

*your Houston Lake neighbor,
Marlene*