

Houston Laker

Community News

Merry Christmas



December 2011



Community Events

Dec. 12th - City Council Meeting
7:30p.m. – City Hall

Dec. 13th - Opening Date for Candidate Filing
Please contact City Clerk Marsha Duncan
816.419.5051

Dec. 15th - Venetian Gardens Homes Association
No Meeting

Dec. 21st - Recycling Day

Dec. 25th - Christmas Day

Merry Christmas





*Happy Holidays and
Best Wishes for the New Year
From all of us to all of you!!!*

*City of Houston Lake
Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Watershed Management Committee
Houston Lake Garden Club
Houston Lake Community News*



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
651-6295
(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

SERVICE PROVIDERS

(UTILITIES)

Missouri Gas Energy -
(816) 756-5252
Emergency - 1-800-582-1234

Kansas City Power & Light -
(816) 471-5275
Emergency - 1-888-544-4852

Southwestern Bell:
Billing - 1-800-585-7928
Repair Service - 1-800-246-8464

Missouri American Water -
Parkville (816) 741-2991
Customer Service & Emergency - 1-866-439-0820

Time Warner Cable -
Customer Service - (816) 358-8833
New Service - (816) 358-2292
Service & Repair - (816) 358-5444

Kansas City Star Newspaper -
Customer Billing - (816) 234-4574
Circulation - (816) 234-4545

Post Office -
1-800-275-8777
Barry Road Delivery Unit
8320 NW Platte Purchase Dr.
Kansas City, Missouri

Trash Collection -
Allied Waste - 816-254-1470

Environmental One System -
Grinder Pump Service - Marsha Duncan - (816) 419-5051

Platte County Court House -
Information - (816) 858-2232
Collector - 858-2232
Health Department - 858-2412



***We wish you a Merry Christmas!
We wish you a Merry Christmas!
We wish you a Merry Christmas!
And a Happy New!***

*On behalf of your Venetian Gardens Homes Association Board ~
Nick Jackalone, Keith Carey, Al Horine, Jan Jackalone and Bill Winton*

***Our Best Wishes to Each and Every One for a
Joyous Time at Christmas with Family and Friends
and a Very Happy, Healthy and Prosperious 2012***

Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Minutes of the
November 17, 2011 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance Nick Jackalone, President; Keith Carey, Vice President; Al Horine, Secretary; Jan Jackalone, Treasurer and Bill Winton, excused.

Members of the Association attending were Jo King, Mary Head, Janette Boehm, Jean Anderson, Jewel Head and Larry Haines.

Old Business: The President reported that the checking account and ledger books are up to date and balanced. He thanked Todd Lagessie, Jo King and Marie Boehm for taking their time to complete the audit process.

\$15,000 had been moved to a 5 Year CD with an APY of 2.10% and it has been named VGHA Dredge Fund. Former President Bill Gay, President Nick Jackalone and Treasurer Jan Jackalone completed the transaction at Bank of the West on October 26, 2011. Nick explained that the 5 year offered higher interest rate of return and would probably not be used until it's maturity date. Even if an emergency required withdrawing the funds, the penalty would be \$75 vs. \$300 if earned at maturity. The checking account has sufficient operating funds so there should be no problem.

With regards to banking, President Nick recommended putting in 2012 association dues into the Money Market Account to earn a little more interest. Money can be transferred to the general checking account as needed. The Board agreed on this matter. President Nick also suggested moving \$15,000 out of the general checking account to the Money Market account for the same purpose and the Board agreed.

President Nick said that while he is President, he will have a Treasurer's report available at the monthly meetings. The Treasurer will report our financial status so everyone knows what is paid and what is being collected. Copies will be available at the meeting. As of October 31, 2011 our funds are \$63,028.04.

Also every effort will be made to collect past due Association Dues. There are two properties in foreclosure and the holding companies have been billed. That would bring in some \$2,000 plus into the VGHA funds.

The President then discussed the problem of the safe deposit box keys being missing. He said that we need to have one to hold our CD's and other papers, such as property liens. He has authorized the bank to charge the VGHA \$75.00 to re-key the box so we can get into it. Janette Boehm asked about the other keys the Homes Association had. We were not aware of any and she said for the water filtering system and some other items. Since we didn't know about them we would contact the two previous Presidents to find out about them. Treasurer Jan Jackalone said she would be in contact with Janette to find out exactly what keys we should have for the Association.

President Nick also discussed getting a credit card so that the Board members and himself were not using their own funds for items such as repair materials, or paint, or signs, etc. He asked for opinions and Jewel Head, Association Member, stated that while he was Mayor, they had a credit card and it was useful and monitored. The Board agreed to pursue the matter.

Finally, President Nick reported that he went to the hearing for the law suit against the Association. The only thing that happened was setting the trial date. More information will be released closer to the trial date. Also, we received medical bills from Truman Medical Center for an individual who was injured. He allegedly fell down a flight of stairs. We are not aware of this incident and the insurance company is investigating the matter. If anyone has information regarding this matter, please contact Nick or Jan Jackalone at 587-0028.

President Nick asked if there was any public discussion. Larry Haines expressed his confidence in the new Board.

Since December is a hectic month with Christmas and Holiday activities, the Board has agreed that there will be no meeting in December. Depending on weather and activity on the lake, it is possible that there will be no January meeting. Watch the Houston Laker or the website www.houstonlake.net for more information about scheduled meetings. If weather causes a problem, President Nick will have a message on his answering machine that the monthly meeting has been cancelled most likely due to snow or icy conditions. You can call him the day of the meeting, after 10 AM and before 6 PM at 816-587-0028.

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CANDIDATE FILING

**The City of Houston Lake, Missouri will hold an election,
Tuesday, April 3, 2012 to elect the following offices:**

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
13, 2011 and no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday January 17, 2012. The
filing forms will be made available by contacting Marsha Duncan
at 816-419-5051.**

December 12, 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

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

6. Paybills – Resolution No 12-12-11

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

- a. Resolution of Thanks

12. Mayors Report

- a. Year in Review

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 14, 2011

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on November 14, 2011 at City Hall. The following members were present: Aldermen Phil Otte , Rick Cowan, Perry Davis and Dan Coronado.

Opening Session

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

Public Discussion

.No public discussion

Minutes October 10, 2011

The minutes were approved by general consent.

Building Permit

The Council approved a permit at 5323 NW Wagon Trail for a detached garage by general consent.

A permit at 5464 NW Venetian for a storage shed was sent back for clarification of the location by the Council.

Treasurers Report

A treasurers report was not available as the bookkeeper did not receive the bank statements in time. It was determined by the Council to allow the bookkeeper access to online viewing of the statements.

Resolution 11-14-11 (paybills)

Alderman Cowan moved that we accept Resolution 11-14-11, seconded by Alderman Otte.

Motion passed

Collectors Report

City Collector, Joyce Kullman gave her monthly report to the Council. Total deposits for the City of \$3,584.58 were made for the period ending 10-31-11.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

A report from 10-1-11 to 10-31-11 was submitted to the Council from the Platte County Sheriff's Department.

Codes Enforcement Officer Mitch Kelly submitted reports from September through October to the Council.

Emergency Management

Alderman Coronado told the Council that he is in the process of putting together an Emergency Management Team. There are also Emergency classes that he would like his team to attend. He is also looking into getting some grants for some items the city may need in case of an emergency. He will also have the Emergency Manual completed by the next meeting.

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowan – No report

Alderman Otte –Alderman Otte reported that he received a complaint from a resident on the road work. He also stated that he has seen many teens roaming the streets and to be alert to this situation.

Alderman Coronado – Alderman Coronado reported that he is still in communication with Julie Jenson of the Kansas City Water Services Department regarding the disturbed areas of ground that have not been rectified as of yet. He followed up with a letter and will continue to monitor this situation. He also thanked Mary Head and Kathy Anchors for the beautiful Christmas. decorations

Alderman Davis – No report

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Mayors Report

- a. Mayor Hallauer told the Council that the Houston Lake Code Book has been updated. He gave the updated material to the Councilmen for their code books.
- b. The Mayor reported that both of the city trucks have been serviced and are ready to plow snow.
- c. The Fire Protection Levy will be on the ballot for this coming April Election.
- d. Mayor Hallauer thanked Mary Head and Kathy Anchors for the outstanding decorations they have created and placed around the Lake.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

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

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



Houston Lake Garden Club



The November meeting was cancelled. It's the beginning of the Holidays and our schedules are getting more hectic. Needless to say, the Club has decided not to hold any special gathering for Christmas, at least not this year! We decided to get together again in February or March when the seed catalogs start arriving and we are itching to get into our gardens. What a great time to start to plan some new garden themes or sharing ideas for some gorgeous plant containers. So start collecting your tidbits of photos, gardening schedules, etc. to share with other Houston Laker "Green Fellows".

So from All of Us to All of You ~~
We wish you a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

Mistletoe

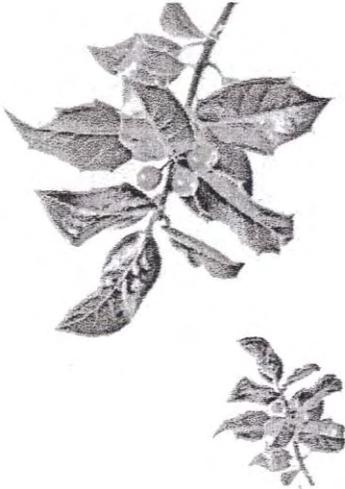


Mistletoe was used by Druid priests 200 years before the birth of Christ in their winter celebrations. They revered the plant since it had no roots yet remained green during the cold months of winter.

The ancient Celts believed mistletoe to have magical healing powers and used it as an antidote for poison, infertility, and to ward off evil spirits. The plant was also seen as a symbol of peace, and it is said that among Romans, enemies who met under mistletoe would lay down their weapons and embrace.

Scandinavians associated the plant with Frigga, their goddess of love, and it may be from this that we derive the custom of kissing under the mistletoe. Those who kissed under the mistletoe had the promise of happiness and good luck in the following year.

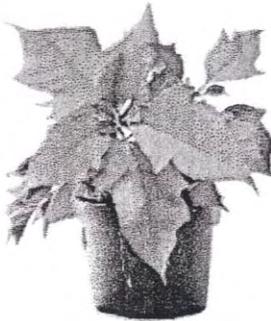
Holly, Ivy and Greenery



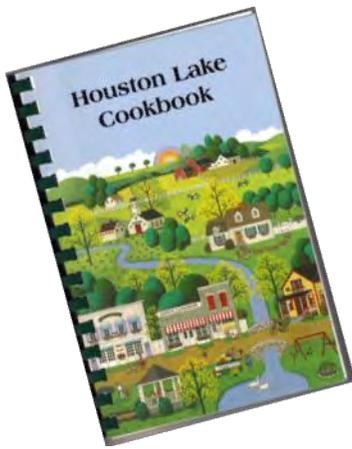
In Northern Europe Christmas occurred during the middle of winter, when ghosts and demons could be heard howling in the winter winds. Boughs of holly, believed to have magical powers since they remained green through the harsh winter, were often placed over the doors of homes to drive evil away. Greenery was also brought indoors to freshen the air and brighten the mood during the long, dreary winter.

Legend also has it that holly sprang from the footsteps of Christ as he walked the earth. The pointed leaves were said to represent the crown of thorns Christ wore while on the cross and the red berries symbolized the blood he shed.

Poinsettias



A native Mexican plant, poinsettias were named after Joel R. Poinsett, U.S. ambassador to Mexico who brought the plant to America in 1828. Poinsettias were likely used by Mexican Franciscans in their 17th century Christmas celebrations. One legend has it that a young Mexican boy, on his way to visit the village Nativity scene, realized he had no gift for the Christ child. He gathered pretty green branches from along the road and brought them to the church. Though the other children mocked him, when the leaves were laid at the manger, a beautiful star-shaped flower appeared on each branch. The bright red petals, often mistaken for flowers, are actually the upper leaves of the plant.



Houston Lake

2nd Edition Cookbook



All of the recipes in this book are from local folks here on Houston Lake. There are 257 delicious recipes in the book.

The Cookbook would make a wonderful Hostess gift, Birthday, Christmas, Thank You and for the Beautiful Bride-to-be.

This is one of a kind gift. Cookbooks are passed from one generation to the next generation, and are forever treasured.

Prices for the 2nd Edition Cookbooks are:



3 = Cookbooks for \$10.00

2 = Cookbooks for \$8.00

1 = Cookbook for \$5.00



To purchase your Cookbooks please call Mary

Head - 816-741-5639 or e-mail

maryjewelh@aol.com. Thank You



Happy Holidays

Watkins

Gift Certificate



Save **\$1.00** when you purchase \$10.00 worth of products.

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(816) 741-5639

Thank You

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call your local Independent Marketing Manager,

Mary Head (816) 741-5639.



Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

from

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by appointment only

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Convenient hours to fit you busy schedule!

*However you celebrate the Holidays,
I wish You the Very Best.*

Marlene