

Houston Laker

Community News

Be My Valentine !!!



February 2012



Community Events

Feb. 7th - Presidential Preference Primary Election
Please vote and be counted!!

Feb. 13th - City Council Meeting
7:30p.m. – City Hall

Feb. 14th - Happy Valentine's Day



Feb. 15th - Recycling Day

Feb. 18th - Third Annual Community Garden Fundraiser
“Casserole Cook-Off” - 5:00p.m. – City Hall

Feb. 23rd - Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Board Meeting – 7:00p.m. – City Hall

Keith Carey found a KEY on a Mickey Mouse key chain. Call Keith if this is yours 746-4472.

A beautiful Eagle on Houston Lake January 4, 2012



Photos by Carolyn Carey

Photos by Andy Spottswood

Thanks Carolyn and Andy for the outstanding pictures.



Community Garden Update

Third Annual Community Garden Fundraiser

“Casserole Cook-Off”

This is an update to the Community Garden Fund Raiser.....thanks so much for the great response to this event. Many entries and many volunteers have already stepped up. This may be the best year yet!!!

I do have a request for this years entries. Please provide a written recipe to me after you drop off your casserole. I would like to publish these in the Houston Laker for everyone to share.

Also, look for a “surprise” guest speaker at our event. Have your gardening questions ready!!!

Here’s a repeat of the planned agenda:

Saturday, February 18th is the designated date. There will be a limit to the number of contestants.....10. So please contact me asap if you’d like to enter.....There’s 5 spots left, so call me soon!!!

Please drop off your entries to City Hall at 3:30 for the judging. We plan on eating at 5:00 pm. If needed, I will keep your casserole warm in our oven

A brisket and turkey will be provided to go with your dishes. If you do not want to enter the contest, please feel free to bring a dish.....dessert comes to mind ☺

Looking forward to seeing all of you there!!!!!!

Marsha Duncan – 419-5051

Angela Gay – 584-9548



**HOUSTON LAKE
INDEPENDENCE
DAY
FIREWORKS
DONATIONS
REQUEST**

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE EVERYONE'S SUPPORT AT THE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING ON 1/26 REGARDING THE ESCALATING EXPENSES TO PRODUCE THIS EVENT EACH YEAR AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE.

IF YOU, TOO, WISH TO HELP LIGHT UP THE SKY THIS SUMMER, YOU CAN GIFT ANY AMOUNT, IN THE FORM OF A PERSONAL CHECK, IT CAN BE LEFT IN THE MAIL SLOT OF THE DOOR AT CITY HALL AND MARKED TO MY ATTENTION RICK COWAN. THE CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO "PREMIER PYROTECHNICS".

I APPRECIATE THE FINANCIAL AID PROVIDED BY THE CITY, VENETIAN GARDENS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION AND, OF COURSE, YOU...IT'S SPECIAL RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS.



Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Minutes of the
January 26, 2012 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, Board Member. 30 Members were in attendance and an additional 9 members were represented by Proxy Votes.

The BUDGET for 2012 was discussed. President Nick stated that two items were a concern before the budget could be passed in the October, 2011 General Meeting. They were setting aside funds sufficient for 2012 lake maintenance. \$5,000 for Dredging and \$10,000 for the Bowl Out Fund has been specifically set aside for those two items. The Final Budget was submitted to the members. Voting by a show of hands took place and it was passed by the majority.

NOTARY BOND discussion was next. A non-member of the Association expressed a concern that the Treasurer could not notarize the President's signature. That it appeared to be a conflict of interest. An email had been sent by the Treasurer to the Secretary of State of Missouri asking for guidance. The Treasurer stated that she was notarizing the signature of the President of the Association with regards to placing liens on delinquent members properties and then releasing the liens when dues were paid in full. Members expressed a concern about possible conflict of interest and about setting a president for future boards.

The Treasurer read her email and the reply received. It was discussed and a couple of members said they saw no conflict of interest since there is no financial gain in the Treasurer notarizing the President's signature. Board Member Bill Winton offered his services as a Notary Public. Since the Treasurer would generally only notarize signatures for its members for personal matters, the fees reimbursed to the Treasurer for her Notary Bond and supplies will be repaid to the Association checking account.

The LAKE SIGNS that were placed on lake property were discussed next. Someone had asked what they meant. (The signs say Members, Guests with Members, Private Property, No Trespassing.) President Nick said, simply means if the member cannot accompany their guest - let the guest use your lake tag if they are swimming, fishing or boating. Members in attendance had a copy of the Lake Regulations dated April 1982 which is still valid today. A member suggested they be put in the Houston Laker and they are included in this month's issue.

OLD BUSINESS - President Nick said he was waiting to talk to a contractor to get an idea of what would best serve the lake. Cleaning out the rock wall up

from the silt pond and/or deepening the silt pond and/or deepening the horse shoe and placing rock around its walls to prevent erosion. This matter will be discussed in the near future.

A member asked about the status of the silt fence purchased a while ago. It has been learned that this type of fence is not the kind that we could use efficiently. It is still being stored in the basement. Someone suggested finding a buyer on EBay, or letting other lakes know it is for sale. The board will be checking into this and will report back.

JANUARY BALANCE SHEET - President Nick reiterated that the Notary Bond fees would be returned to the checking account. He also said that the Treasurer has been working hard to collect delinquent dues. He also stated that the Board has two credit cards. He said he had used one to buy cement for the lake signs and has about a \$40 balance. A member asked what happens to the receipts and President Nick said they are attached to the bill along with a copy of the check written to pay the balance. This would lend itself to a paper trail for the time of the audit.

ASSOCIATION DUES were next discussed. Dues have been coming in and it was shown on the Balance Sheet. The President said that the Treasurer is getting past due accounts in order with mortgage and closing companies. A member asked how many members were behind. The Treasurer reported about 42 members. If all was collected and up to date, we would have an additional \$24,000 in the bank. Less than 10 members are more than 1 year past due.

OPEN DISCUSSION - Several members thanked the Board for their hard work.

Rick Cowan asked for a moment to address fireworks. He said he would gladly accept donations from members to offset his costs. The members approved \$500 during the October, 2011 meeting. Rick said it would mean a lot to help offset the rising costs of fireworks. It was decided that he would give Mary Head, Editor of the Houston Laker, some information about how residents could donate to the fireworks fund; who to make the check payable to, etc. To Rick's surprise a member immediately handed him a check! So please feel free to personally donate to the fireworks that Rick and his crew put on each 4th of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. For another hour or so, members enjoyed the time for cakes, cookies and brownies and lots and lots of just saying "Hi Neighbor!" and catching up on things. The Board would like to say thanks to all of those members who took the time from their busy schedules to attend the meeting.

Please join us for our **next meeting to be held February 23, 2012 at 7:00 PM.** Red Lake Tags will be available for pickup for Members who are current with their Lake dues.

February 13, 2012
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. 5379 NW Edgewood Trail – Wood Partition

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

6. Paybills – Resolution No 02-13-12

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. Copier – Maintenance Agreement

12. Mayors Report

- a. Fire Protection

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

**Financial Statement
City of Houston Lake
As of December 31, 2011**

Income - Period Covered July 1 - December 31, 2011

General Fund	43,596.52	
Road Fund	5,634.18	
Grinder Pump Fund	2.43	
Fire Protection Fund	8.32	
Total		\$ 49,241.45

Expenses - Period Covered July 1 - December 31, 2011

General Fund	43,893.12	
Road Fund	13,026.41	
Grinder Pump Fund	7,539.30	
Fire Protection Fund	9,500.02	
Total		\$ 73,958.85

Total Funds as of December 31, 2011

General Fund	82,396.53	
Road Fund	4,566.03	
Grinder Pump Fund	5,706.68	
Fire Protection Fund	11,583.78	
Municipal Court Account	239.77	
Municipal Court Bond Account	519.75	
Transportation Sales Tax Receipts (as of 09/30/11)	14,227.19	
General Fund CD - matures 06/12/12	23,261.89	
Road Fund CD - matures 06/26/12	56,823.33	
Mill and Overlay CD - matures 04/12/13 (as of 10/31/11)	25,156.68	
Grinder Pump Fund CD - matures 12/15/12	12,218.94	
Total		\$ 236,700.57

City of Houston Lake
Unofficial Minutes of the Council Meeting
January 9, 2012

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on January 9, 2012 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

Mr. Rick Cowan, a former Law Enforcement Officer and currently with a lobbying group, Coalition Against Big Trucks. He told the Council that there is a strong effort in congress to push legislation through to increase the allowable weights of trucks from 80,000 lbs to 100,000 lbs. This change would certainly raise a grave safety issue as well as a detriment to our infrastructure through out the nation. He asked the Council to consider joining other cities in passing a Resolution to oppose this bill.

Minutes December 12, 2011

The minutes were approved by general consent.

Building Permit

The Council approved, by general consent, a building permit for a storage shed at 5464 NW Venetian Drive.

Treasurers Report

Alderman Cowan moved to approve the 1-9-12 treasurers report, seconded by Alderman Coronado. Motion passed.

Resolution 01-09-12 (paybills)

Alderman Davis moved that we accept Resolution 01-09-12, 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 \$64,852.31 were made for the period ending 12-31-11.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

A report from 12-1-11 to 12-31-11 was submitted to the Council from the Platte County Sheriff's Department.

Codes Enforcement Officer Mitch Kelly submitted report for December, 2011 to the Council.

Emergency Management

No report

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowan – No report

Alderman Otte –Alderman reported that he found an old fishing boat hidden in the woods. He will report any serial numbers to the Sheriff’s Department in hopes of locating the owner.

Alderman Coronado – No report

Alderman Davis – No report

Old Business

None

New Business

Mayor Hallauer gave the Council a copy of a Park Grant to be submitted for a water fountain at the City Park. A copy of a cost proposal from Anderson Backhoe showed the total cost at \$8,663.00. After much discussion, the Council voted unanimously to move forward with the Grant but with zero matching funds.

A formal resolution, approving and endorsing the application for the grant was passed by general consent.

Mayors Report

a. KCPL sent a notice to Mayor Hallauer that they will be trimming trees in Houston Lake.

b. City Clerk, Marsha Duncan, submitted to the Council bid proposals for 3 copy machines from the Copier Shop. The Council requested a bid from another company. This will be presented and discussed with the Homes Association.

c. Mayor Hallauer told the Council that he spoke with the City of Riverside and the contract price for fire protection will remain the same for the next four years. The new contract will be renewed in July.

d. Mayor Hallauer has issued a warning to residents of Houston Lake on raccoons that seem ill. The City of Riverside has reported 11 raccoons and Houston Lake 4 raccoons with distemper. Please take caution and report this to Mitch Kelly as soon as possible. This distemper can be passed on to your pets through outside feeding bowls.

e. All officials that receive requests for city information, must do so through a written request by mail or e-mail. This will be answered in the appropriate time.

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

HOUSTON LAKE RESIDENTS

Cast Your Official Ballot of the
“Presidential Preference Primary Election”

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

at

WEXFORD PLACE

6500 N. Cosby Ave.

From I-29: west on Hwy 45 (64th St.) to N. Cosby Ave. Turn right on N. Cosby Ave., then left into the entrance to Wexford Place. The poll site will be set up in the Stafford Room, just past the reception desk.

Time 6:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.

Platte County Board of Election (816) 858-4400

Any Questions please call:

City Clerk – Marsha Duncan = (816) 419-5051

Editor – Mary Head = (816) 741-5639

VOTER REGISTRATION SITES PLATTE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Are You Registered to Vote? All residents of Houston Lake whether you are Owner or Renter can register and VOTE. You must be 18 years old or older to register. You can register at any of the sites below.

Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, (816)741-0644 or
Registrar Mary Head (816)741-5639, call for an appointment.

Mid-Continent Public Libraries:

Boardwalk, 8600 N. Executive Hills Blvd, Kansas City: (816) 741-9011

Parkville, 8815 NW Hwy 45, Parkville: (816) 741-4721

Riverside, 2700 NW Vivion Rd, Riverside: (816) 741-6288

NOTE: In addition, Missouri Voter Registration Application postcards can be completed at any license bureau.

Any questions call

Platte County Board of Elections
2600 NW Prairie View Road
P.O. Box 560
Platte City, Missouri 64079

Phone number (816) 858-4400

**Official Primary Ballot
County of Platte, Missouri
Presidential Preference Primary Election
Tuesday, February 7, 2012**

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Judges' Initials

#01

Democratic Party



Instructions to Voters

Completely fill in the oval next to the candidate of your choice like this: ●

Uncommitted: A vote for "Uncommitted" indicates to the political party that you are not committed to any of the candidates on the ballot.

Note: The ballot reading device in use is designed to only record votes cast as a filled-in oval. Use only the special marking pen provided. There can be no erasures, stray marks, check marks, or crossouts on the ballot. If you make an error marking the ballot, see an Election Judge to receive a replacement ballot.

**For U.S. President
(Vote for One.)**

- Barack Obama
- Randall Terry
- Darcy G. Richardson
- John Wolfe
- (UNCOMMITTED)

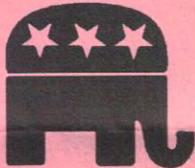
**Official Primary Ballot
County of Platte, Missouri
Presidential Preference Primary Election
Tuesday, February 7, 2012**

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Judges' Initials

#02

Republican Party



Instructions to Voters

Completely fill in the oval next to the candidate of your choice like this: ●

Uncommitted: A vote for "Uncommitted" indicates to the political party that you are not committed to any of the candidates on the ballot.

Note: The ballot reading device in use is designed to only record votes cast as a filled-in oval. Use only the special marking pen provided. There can be no erasures, stray marks, check marks, or crossouts on the ballot. If you make an error marking the ballot, see an Election Judge to receive a replacement ballot.

**For U.S. President
(Vote for One.)**

- Gary Johnson
- Herman Cain
- Mitt Romney
- Michael J. Meehan
- Rick Perry
- Keith Drummond
- Jon Huntsman
- Michele Bachmann
- Rick Santorum
- Ron Paul
- (UNCOMMITTED)

**Official Primary Ballot
County of Platte, Missouri
Presidential Preference Primary Election
Tuesday, February 7, 2012**

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Judges' Initials

#03

Libertarian Party



Instructions to Voters

Completely fill in the oval next to the candidate of your choice like this: ●

Uncommitted: A vote for "Uncommitted" indicates to the political party that you are not committed to any of the candidates on the ballot.

Note: The ballot reading device in use is designed to only record votes cast as a filled-in oval. Use only the special marking pen provided. There can be no erasures, stray marks, check marks, or crossouts on the ballot. If you make an error marking the ballot, see an Election Judge to receive a replacement ballot.

**For U.S. President
(Vote for One.)**

- James Orland Ogle III
- (UNCOMMITTED)

**Official Primary Ballot
County of Platte, Missouri
Presidential Preference Primary Election
Tuesday, February 7, 2012**

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Judges' Initials

#04

Constitution Party



Instructions to Voters

Completely fill in the oval next to the candidate of your choice like this: ●

Uncommitted: A vote for "Uncommitted" indicates to the political party that you are not committed to any of the candidates on the ballot.

Note: The ballot reading device in use is designed to only record votes cast as a filled-in oval. Use only the special marking pen provided. There can be no erasures, stray marks, check marks, or crossouts on the ballot. If you make an error marking the ballot, see an Election Judge to receive a replacement ballot.

**For U.S. President
(Vote for One.)**

(UNCOMMITTED)

To apply for absentee ballot: print this application form, complete and mail to Platte County Board of Elections, PO Box 560, Platte City, MO 64079 or FAX to 816-858-3387

REQUEST FOR PLATTE COUNTY ABSENTEE BALLOT

I, _____, do hereby request an absentee ballot for the _____ Election.

For Identification purposes, the last four digits of my social security number are _____.
If the election is a primary election, please print the name of the political party ballot you wish to receive _____. If you registered by mail and this is your first time voting you must provide a copy of current valid photo identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document that shows your name and address.

Reason for requesting an absentee ballot:

- _____ (1) Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which registered to voter;
- _____ (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability;
- _____ (3) Religious belief or practice
- _____ (4) Employment as an election authority, as a member of an election authority, or by an election authority at a location other than your polling place;
- _____ (5) Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained

Current Residential Address:

Address where ballot is to be mailed, if different than above:

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I do solemnly swear that all statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Signature of Voter

Date

Mail completed Absentee Ballot Application to **Platte County Board of Elections, PO Box 560, Platte City, MO 64079, or FAX to 816-858-3387**. All requests must be received by the Board of Election's office no later than 5:00 p.m., the Wednesday prior to election day.

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

Gift Certificates Always Available

Great for Last Minutes Gifts

Over 25 Years of Experience!

Best Wishes to You,

Marlene