

Houston Laker

*Happy
Valentine's Day!*



February 2013



Community News

Feb. 11th - City Council Meeting
7:30pm. – City Hall

Feb. 13th - Recycling Day

Feb. 14th - A graphic for Valentine's Day featuring a red heart and the text "Happy Valentine's Day" in a red, cursive font.

Feb. 20th - Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Board Meeting – 6:30pm. Also 2013
purple Lake wristband will be available
for pick up from 6pm. – 6:30pm. City Hall

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) Applications for a building permit may be obtained by leaving a message at City Hall, contacting your Alderman or calling City Clerk at 816-419-5051.



Community Garden Update

2013 Community Garden Fundraiser “ All About Kids”

It's time to start thinking about the Community Garden again, and hopefully we'll get some cooperation from the weather this year. Our first planting of green beans did very well, but then after that the extreme heat just about roasted everything. But I feel optimistic that we will have a wonderful harvest this year along with all of your help.

The 2013 Garden Fundraiser dinner and cooking contest will be held on March 16 in City Hall at 5:00 pm.....and with a new twist. This year will be “All about Kids” and what they like to eat.

The contestants will cook that special favorite dish they cooked for their children. It may be a side dish, main course or a dessert. There will be prizes given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. A roast turkey and brisket will be provided as well as refreshments.

This contest is open for all.....so if your children have already left the nest, dust off your cook books and look for that favorite recipe that would always get your children to the dinner table on time.

Now, here's the twist.....the judges will be our children of Houston Lake. And if you know children you know they are not shy about expressing their likes and dislikes about food. We need 4 to 6 volunteer judges. Please contact myself (816.419.5051) or Angela Gay (816.584.9548) if you would like to be a judge or a contestant.

We have many new residents on Houston Lake and we welcome you to join this yearly event. Come meet your new neighbors and learn about your Community Garden, how it works and how you can help.

**Thanks for all you do!!!
Marsha Duncan and Angela Gay**

From the Desk of the Clerk

Just a reminder that our “Free Yoga Class” has resumed from our December Holiday break. The class is every Sunday, in City Hall at 11:00 am.

This is open to all Houston Lake residents and their friends, male, female, young and old. You do not have to notify anyone if you would like to attend. Just show up!!

Just make sure that you wear comfortable clothing and you bring a Yoga mat or a large towel for the floor exercises. Again, this is not a fashion show.....it’s all about comfort and relaxation. We do low impact yoga which means a lot of stretching.

We are many years into this class and for some of us, like myself, it’s an hour of total reflection and a much needed weekly break. A way of cleaning out the cob webs and starting fresh.

If you would like more information on this class, please call me at 816.419.5051.

**Please join us if you can!!!
Marsha Duncan**

The City of Houston Lake Office of Emergency Management
Is Pleased To Offer The Residents of Houston Lake

"The Community Connection"



Residents of Houston Lake are invited to opt-in and receive community public safety information and civic event updates sent as a **text message or email** or both to your cell phone, computer tablet, laptop, or home computer.

- **Platte Co. Public Safety Information** – Receive alerts from the Platte Co. Sheriff's Department for AMBER alerts, lost or missing persons, hazardous material accidents, large scale fire alerts, evacuation requests, shelter-in-place, civil emergencies, or threats to our national security.
- **Registered Sex Offender Notifications** – Be updated when registered sex offenders move into your community. Research the Sheriff's database and find out where they are.
- **Houston Lake Safety Information** – Be informed on water main breaks, boil orders, road/bridge closures, flooding, burn restrictions, lake swimming closures or unusual wildlife activity.
- **Local Civic Events** – Get information updates about community events or special city meetings being held in Houston Lake.
- **Inclement Weather** – Receive LOCALIZED weather alerts triggered by warnings and advisories issued by the National Weather Service for Platte County and the Houston Lake area only.

SIGN UP HERE - It's EASY and it's FREE!
<http://plattesherriff.org/community-connection>

The Community Connection is a free service provided by the Platte County Sheriff's Office.
Your information will never be sold or shared with others.
Please check your cell phone plan for any text message fees that may be charged.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF HOUSTON LAKE

FROM RICK COWAN

For over a decade, I have had the pleasure of being known as “the fireworks guy” amongst my fellow residents and have proudly worn that title. I was very touched when the city honored my contributions last month. However, after many weeks of deliberation, I must resign from that position and let others carry on what has become a summer tradition here on the lake.

Over the past 13 years, what started out as a lark on my behalf has turned into a very large personal expense. Now don't get me wrong...I've enjoyed every minute of blowing the heck out of my money and the “oohs” and “aahs” I hear from the crowd. The show has grown into one I'm proud of and, recognizing it's benefit to the community, city government has stepped up to the plate as the years have progressed by increasing their financial participation in the event. The homeowners' association has also contributed money and, last year, several residents very generously reached into their own pockets to help. Despite this, however, I still had to spend enough on the display that Wendy and I were forced to put aside some of the goals we had wished to achieve in 2012.

I also have to expend funds to attend pyrotechnics school every three years (a requirement to keep my state pyrotechnics license). In addition, new, and stricter, requirements recently issued by the ATF will increase the cost of the show even more this year.

I simply have reached a point where, as much as I love doing it, I can no longer justify spending the amount of money I do every year for this celebration. It is my fervent hope that others pick up the mantle and continue what has become the one time of the year that the citizens of Houston Lake get together to enjoy each other's company. I look forward to seeing you there!

Respectfully,

Rick Cowan

Venetian Gardens Homes Association Minutes January 16, 2013

The meeting was opened at 6:30PM. Board members came in at 6PM to offer an opportunity for members to pay dues and pick up lake tags. Members attending were Janet Boehm, Dan Coronado, Sue Haines and Mary Head.

President Nick told the members that long-time resident Victor Mendenhall passed away. Several residents attended his service.

Next, Pres. Nick said that dues were coming in steadily and we had already collected some \$22,000. The funds will be used to replenish our account after the spillway expenditures.

There have been a few requests for a speaker system. There is a local vendor who is willing to rent two speakers and microphones for \$165 each meeting. Or, we can purchase a portable, wireless system on the internet for about \$1200. After some discussion the Board and members felt that those who talk among themselves during a meeting should be discouraged to do so and that having anyone who wants to say something to the Board, come up and stand toward the front of the room. It was agreed that this would be tried out and no system would be purchased or rented.

Pres. Nick told the Board that as a member of the Platte County Sheriff's Civilian Patrol, he requested that a civilian patrol car be used on the lake to curb speeders, vandalism, etc. Nick offered to use his own SUV with a magnetic sign. This was brought up from a previous Neighborhood Watch meeting. Unfortunately, Platte County declined our request because they could become part of a lawsuit. It's a liability thing.

The Board discussed the silt pond and the horse shoe. Secretary Jan Jackalone said that there may be some grant money available from Platte County for Storm Waste Management. In talking with Joe Chepren, our adopted resident expert, there was not enough time to put an estimate together from engineers, possible land surveyors, and studying how the water upstream directly affects the area in question. We would also need a place to deposit the silt and a place and price for more rock. After some discussion, the Board decided that we would go ahead with finding out what needs to be done to correct the problem. Get some costs together. Depending on what we find out, there are some possibilities. Treat the silt pond and horse shoe as one big project or individually with funds on hand and/or apply for grant funds for 2014.

Pres. Nick forgot to mention the following:

Thanking Todd Lagesse and Janet Boehm for repairing the lake sign by the boat ramp. The bottom board was broken and Todd and Janet reworked and painted the sign. Looks Great!!

Thanking Mary Head and Kathy Anchors for their creative Christmas Decorations placed throughout the City during the Holidays. Lots of work during very cold and windy days, let alone behind the scene work they do to prepare the decorations.

Per Pres. Nick. I kinda hogged the whole meeting and I apologize to my Board Members.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 PM. Next meeting is February 20, 2013 come at 6 PM for lake dues/tags. Meeting at 6:30 PM.

Advertising

at a price you can afford!!!



“This is a rare find.”

If you want to advertise a product or service try the Houston Laker. The price is the same for Small Businesses, Individuals or Corporations. A one full page black & white advertisement, 8½ X 11, is only \$20.00 per issue. To place an advertisement in the Houston Laker Community News call:

Mary Head (816) 741-5639.

This is the most affordable form of advertising in the Kansas City area.

February 11, 2013
Council Meeting Agenda
City of Houston Lake – City Hall 7:30 p.m.

1. Opening Session

a. Cell Phones

2. Public Discussion

3. Minutes

4. Permits

5. Paybills – Resolution No 02-11-13

6. Old Business

7. New Business

a. Municipal Code Chapter 205: Animal Regulations

8. Treasurer’s report - Collector’s Report - Budget

9. Police Report - Codes Report

10. Emergency Management

11. Reports from Aldermen

Mr. Cowan

Mr. Otte

Mr. Coronado

Ms. Anderson

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

**Financial Statement
City of Houston Lake
As of December 31, 2012**

Income - Period Covered July 1 - December 31, 2012

General Fund	40,155.74	
Road Fund	13,960.97	
Grinder Pump Fund	800.87	
Fire Protection Fund	8.57	
Total		\$ 54,926.15

Expenses - Period Covered July 1 - December 31, 2012

General Fund	36,336.07	
Road Fund	12,614.30	
Grinder Pump Fund	4,846.24	
Fire Protection Fund	9,500.02	
Total		\$ 63,296.63

Total Funds as of December 31, 2012

General Fund	64,089.19	
Road Fund	7,323.79	
Grinder Pump Fund	101.23	
Fire Protection Fund	11,869.20	
Municipal Court Account	679.75	
Municipal Court Bond Account	519.75	
Transportation Sales Tax Receipts (as of 07/12)	11,882.91	
General Fund CD	23,408.09	
Road Fund CD	57,180.46	
Mill and Overlay CD	25,472.99	
Grinder Pump Fund CD	12,310.99	
Mill and Overlay CD	15,000.00	
Total		\$ 229,838.35

City of Houston Lake

Official Minutes of the Council Meeting

December 10, 2012

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on December 10, 2012 at City Hall. The following members were present: Aldermen Phil Otte, Dan Coronado, Jean Anderson and Rick Cowan

Opening Session

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

Public Discussion

Due to illness Dale Schmutcher from FEMA, on the National Flood Insurance Program, has rescheduled for the January City meeting.

Minutes November 12, 2012

The minutes were approved by general consent.

Building Permit

A permit for 5451 NW Venetain Drive (recreational burning) was approved by the Council.

Treasurers Report

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

Resolution 12-10-12 (paybills)

Alderman Coronado moved that we accept Resolution 12-10-12, seconded by Alderman Cowan. Motion passed

Collectors Report

City Collector Joyce Kullman reported deposits for the month of November of \$22,230.28.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

The Platte County Sheriff's Department submitted police reports from 10-1-12 to 11-30-12. Codes Enforcement Officer, Mitch Kelly submitted his report for the months of November/December, 2012.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Director Dan Coronado submitted to the Council a Houston Lake Emergency Management 2012 Year End Report. Of the 10 main emergency management concerns presented to the City Council on August 15, 2011 (7) have been accomplished and the (3) remaining are 50% completed.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowan – No report

Alderman Otte – Alderman Otte wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Alderman Coronado – No report

Alderman Anderson – No report

Mayors Report

a. Mayor Hallauer submitted his “Year in Review” report to the Council. The City has installed 2 new street lights, upgraded the mower, paid \$15,000 forward for a mill and overlay CD, the completed CERT training, Jean Anderson was elected Alderman for the South Ward and Dan Coronado was reelected, another great City Wide clean-up, the success of the 4th of July Celebration, signed the Fire Protection Contract for another 4 years, grinder pump fee was adjusted to save that fund, Fall brush pick up and issued 12 building permits.

The City Council each year recognizes someone that has contributed greatly to the Houston Lake community. For 10 years Rick Cowan’s contribution to the 4th of July Celebration has been unmatched. Mayor Hallauer gave Mr. Cowan three “thank you” cards with the signatures of many Houston Lake residents and friends. Thanks so much Rick for all you do!!

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 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

DRAFT – Houston Lake City Directory – DRAFT

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• Our city directory is nearly complete. Our latest draft was published in this month's
• printed Houston Laker.

• Please carefully review your information for accuracy. If we misspelled your name or typed
• your phone number incorrectly please let us know. Also check your neighbor's information
• too - maybe they've moved out and we aren't aware.

• You will notice that some homes have multiple entries, we did this to make it easier to
• accommodate different last names and individual cell numbers.

• Please e-mail updates to jean@houstonlake.net. If you prefer you can mark your updates
• on this draft and drop it off at City Hall.

• Thank you,

• Jean Anderson and Marsha Duncan

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Editor's Note: I want to "thank" Ron Haines for taking this picture of the Eagle on 11/24/12



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.

LAST DAY to Register to VOTE for the April 2nd, 2013 General Municipal Election is March 6, 2013.

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





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*Best wishes,
Marlene*