

Happy New Year!



Houston Laker - January 2015

JANUARY



Community Events

Jan. 1st



Jan. 3rd - *Arts, Life & Folks: Houston Lake Arts Circle
Trip to Nelson Atkins to see
Plains Indian Exhibit – 11:00am – City Hall*

Jan. 12th - *City Council Meeting
7:30pm – City Hall*

Jan. 14th - *Recycling Day*

Jan. 17th - *Arts, Life & Folks: Administrative Meeting
10:00am. – City Hall*

Jan. 20th - *Closing date for Candidate Filing. Please contact
City Clerk, Marsha Duncan 816.419.5051*

Jan. 24th - *Homes Association will be at City Hall 2-4pm.
To accept dues and hand out 2015 Lake Bracelets*



Auld Lang Syne



Should auld ac- quain- tance be for- got and ne- ver brought to mind? Should auld ac- quain- tance



be for- got And days o' auld lang syne. For auld lang syne, my dear, For



auld lang syne, We'll drink a cup o' kind- ness yet For auld lang syne.



CITY OFFICIALS CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE

Mayor

Michael Hallauer
816-365-6469
(mayor@houstonlake.net)

City Clerk

Marsha Duncan
816-419-5051
(cityclerk@houstonlake.net)

City Collector

Joyce Kullman
816-547-8173

Alderman (Ward 1 So.)

Jean Anderson
816-645-1529
(Sw1-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 1 So.)

Rick Cowan
816-741-3199
(Sw2-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 2 No.)

Phil Otte
816-741-5477
(Nw1-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 2 No.)

Dan Coronado
816-584-2667
(Nw2-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Municipal Judge

Greg Dorsey
816-785-4284

Court Clerk

Sharon Brandt
816-785-4284

Codes Enforcement Officer

Mitch Kelly
816-651-6295
(mkelly@houstonlake.net)

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION

President

Larry Haines
816-506-1564

Vice President

Keith Carey
816-746-4472

Treasurer

Gary Halterman
660-492-2068

Secretary

Jan Jackalone
816-587-0028
(Lake Tags)

Board Member

Ron Haines
816-699-5906

Houston Lake Watershed Management Committee

Michael Hallauer
816-215-9138

Registrar

Editor – Houston Laker

Mary Head
816-741-5639

Sewer Grinder Pumps

Marsha Duncan
816-419-5051

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

Houstonlake.net

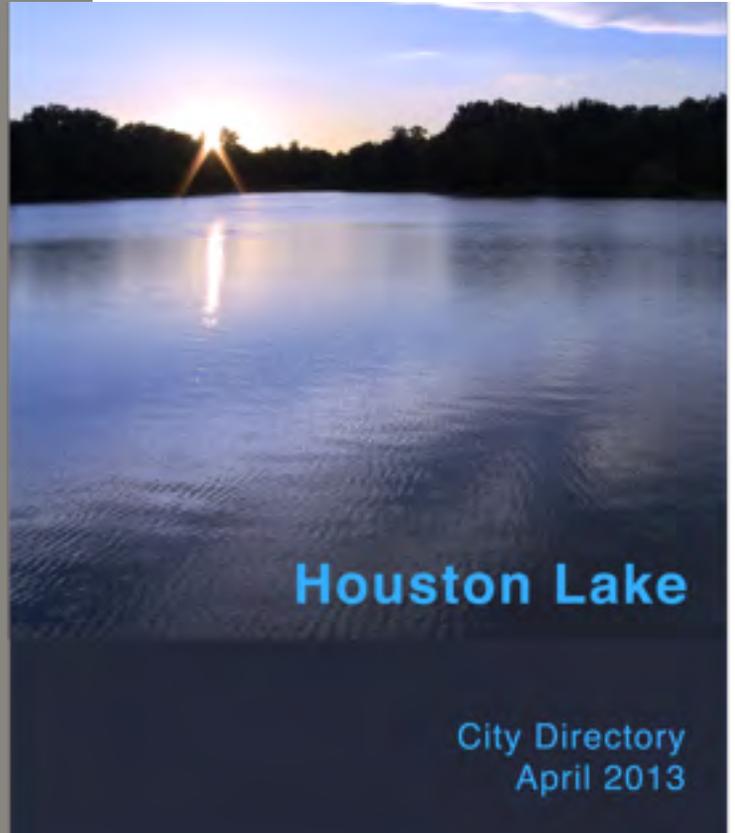
For Your Information

SECTION 210.285:

DISCHARGING AIR GUN, ETC.

Any person within the limits of this City who shall discharge any BB gun, spring gun, paint gun or air gun or shall shoot any pebble, bullet, slug, arrow or other hard substance by means of a sling, crossbow, rubber band or bow or any other means shall be deemed guilty of an ordinance violation; provided however, that this Section shall not apply to any person or organization authorized by the City of Houston Lake to possess and discharge such devices for the purpose of waterfowl pest control. (Ord. No. 303, 9-12-05)

City Directory Update



We're Updating the Directory

Help us keep our directory up-to-date. If you've changed phone numbers, added a cell phone or dropped your house phone please update your information.

New to the community? Please let us know if you are not in the 2013 Directory so we can add you.

- ▶ Send your information via e-mail to Jean Anderson, sw1-alderman@houstonlake.net
- ▶ Or drop this completed form in the door mail slot at City Hall.

Last Name(s): _____

First Name(s): _____

Address: _____

House Phone: _____

Cell Phone & Name : _____

Cell Phone & Name: _____

Get Organized in 30 Days For 2015

Print and post this checklist on your refrigerator door. Each day this month, focus on decluttering one area of your home or life and visit PGeveryday.com for more inspiration.

- DAY 01 Paperwork.** Get rid of junk mail and create a centralized filing system instead.
- DAY 02 Front Entryway.** Create a place for keys, bags and umbrellas with hooks, trays or a basket.
- DAY 03 Coat Closet or Mudroom.** Put out-of-season items in storage and donate anything you don't use. Place footwear on racks or in bins.
- DAY 04 Purse.** Toss unused items. Use a pouch that can be transferred from purse to purse for makeup.
- DAY 05 Cleaning Supplies.** Make a cleaning basket that goes easily from room to room.
- DAY 06 Under the Kitchen Sink.** Sort cleaning items into bins to make them more accessible.
- DAY 07 Fridge.** Remove all items from the fridge. Wipe everything down and group like items together.
- DAY 08 Freezer.** Remove all items and place in a cooler. Use small bins to hold like items and stack them.
- DAY 09 Pantry.** Eliminate as much packaging as possible. Store items in airtight, stackable containers.
- DAY 10 Kitchen Cabinets.** Ensure containers have matching lids. Toss unnecessary kitchen gadgets.
- DAY 11 Dining Area.** Create storage solutions for all items that frequently clutter the table.
- DAY 12 Entertainment Area.** Make sure all electronics are in proper cases. Wrap cords to avoid tangles.
- DAY 13 Junk Drawer.** Get rid of unused items. Use containers or dividers to store like items together.
- DAY 14 Desk.** File away any paperwork and streamline your workspace.
- DAY 15 Bathroom Cabinets.** Store like items in baskets. Use hanging storage on the inside of cabinets to save space.
- DAY 16 Medicine Cabinet.** Keep the medicine cabinet reserved for toiletries used on a daily basis.
- DAY 17 Linen Closet.** Store linens in order of importance. Assign one shelf to each room and store sheets in pillowcases to keep them together.
- DAY 18 Makeup.** Clean out your makeup bag. Individual compacts and brushes. Toss unused items.
- DAY 19 Jewelry.** Hang necklaces on hooks to avoid tangling. Sort earrings, rings and bracelets.
- DAY 20 Bedroom Closet.** Remove all articles from closet. Only put back items you still wear or use. Sort by color and type.
- DAY 21 Sock Drawer.** Use plastic dividers to sort and organize.
- DAY 22 Nightstand.** Clear off tabletop and keep what's needed before bed or during the night.
- DAY 23 Toys.** Use bins and baskets to keep toys together. Use labels so kids know where everything is (use pictures if they're young).
- DAY 24 Craft Space.** Round up supplies and put them away.
- DAY 25 Laundry Room.** Keep a jar handy for loose items from pockets and a basket for unpaired socks.
- DAY 26 Manuals and Warranties.** Keep these stored together in one basket or folder. Check for digital copies.
- DAY 27 Basement.** Use large storage totes and store seasonal items together. Use labels often.
- DAY 28 Magazines and Books.** Toss outdated issues. Take pictures of specific pages and store them digitally.
- DAY 29 Garage.** Mount pegboards to hang tools & gardening supplies. Store sporting goods in large plastic tubs.
- DAY 30 Car.** Keep a folder in the glove box to store important papers. Have bags in the consoles to collect trash.



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 Mike Hallauer - 816-365-6469 or
Marsha Duncan - 816-419-5051.

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.

2015 Holiday Schedule:

Pick-up Day

New Years (Thursday 1-1-15)
Memorial Day (Monday 5-25-15)
Independence Day (Saturday 7-4-15)
Labor Day (Monday 9-7-15)
Thanksgiving (Thursday 11-26-15)
Christmas (Friday 12-25-15)
New Years (Friday 1-1-16)

Wednesday 12-31-14
Thursday 5-28-15
Wednesday 7-1-15
Thursday 9-10-15
Wednesday 11-25-15
Wednesday 12-23-15
Wednesday 12-30-15

2015 Recycle Schedule



**Yellow & Green Lid
Recycling Cart**

January 14
February 11
March 11
April 8
May 6
June 3
July 1
July 29
August 26
September 23
October 21
November 18
December 16



Items must be inside the cart (**Not on the ground, not on top – inside**). Recycle carts must be curbside by 7:00 am the day of pick up. Be respectful and remove your cart from curbside when finished. If you need an extra cart or would like to recycle, please notify Mike Hallauer - 816-365-6469 or Marsha Duncan 816-419-5051.



HOUSTON LAKE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2016

AS THE FIREWORKS GUY HERE IN THE COMMUNITY, I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT I RECEIVE FROM THE VENETIAN GARDENS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION AND GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE TO PRESENT PYROTECHNICS WHEN WE COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE 4TH OF JULY.

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, THE ASSOCIATION HAS INCLUDED \$500 TOWARDS THE DISPLAY IN ITS ANNUAL BUDGET. AS WE ARE NOW ONLY HOLDING THE EVENT EVERY OTHER YEAR, THIS CAME TO A TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$1,000 OVER TWO YEARS IN 2014.

EACH YEAR, I HAVE TO FIGHT ESCALATING EXPENSES TO PRODUCE THE SAME QUALITY EVENT. THIS YEAR, I HAVE ASKED THE BOARD TO PRESENT THREE OPTIONS FOR THE RESIDENTS TO CHOOSE FROM FOR THE 2015 BUDGET...

\$0 (BECAUSE I DO REALIZE THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE FESTIVITIES), \$500 OR \$750.

I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT YOU WILL VOTE FOR THE LARGER AMOUNT AS THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT YOU, THE RESIDENTS OF THIS CITY, PUT TOWARDS OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION...NOT TO MAKE THE SHOW BIGGER AND BETTER BUT SIMPLY TO MAINTAIN IT'S CURRENT SIZE AND DURATION.

I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN DESIGNING AND COORDINATING THIS PORTION OF OUR SUMMER HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AND HOPE THAT YOU FIND THE ENJOYMENT I DO IN LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT SKY AS A CELEBRATION OF OUR LIBERTY.

RICK COWAN
816.741.3199



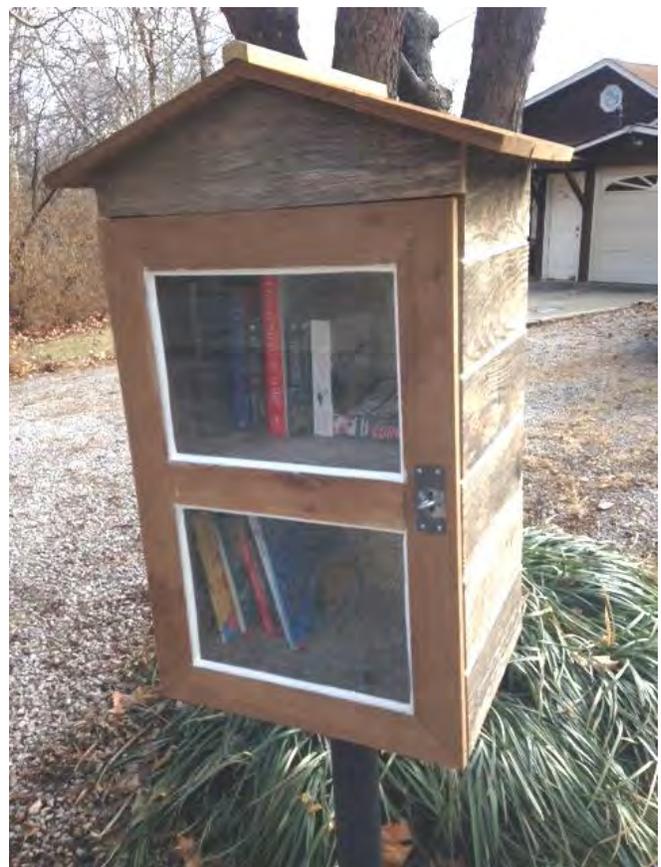
HOUSTON LAKE GETS COMMUNITY BOOK EXCHANGE

Houston Lake now has a Community Book Exchange available for everyone's use. If you want a book, come get one. If you want to donate books, just leave them. And thanks! We'll take puzzles and magazines too.

The top shelf is for the adults, the bottom shelf is reachable for kids.

Installed at 5406 NW Venetian Dr., it's rustic design looks like an aged cabin.

It was built and donated by Michael Lazar; he constructed it completely from recycled materials.



Enjoy!



Mrs Claus hands out sheet music to young carolers

Arts

Art, Life & Folks: Houston Lake Arts Circle

December 13 Meeting

Minutes

Reviewed and approved November minutes.

Treasurers Report

Our treasury balance is \$22.32. We are very happy to announce that Houston Lake Homes Association plans to donate to Art, Life and Folks. Their donation will be greatly appreciated!

Old Business

December Caroling - "A Caroling We Go" will start at 2:00pm December 14 in City Hall. We had no requests for carolers at homes so we will sing in City Hall instead. The weather looks like it will be warm and pleasant.

Trip to Nelson-Atkins to see *The Plains Indian Exhibit* - For all who want to see this exhibit with us, meet us at City Hall 11:00am Saturday, January 3. We'll car pool there and back.

The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky

We will visit this wonderful exhibit at the **Nelson-Atkins Museum.**

Join us Saturday Jan 3,
11:00am to car pool.

Help us Redecorate City Hall

We want your ideas and help to redecorate City Hall after the painting project is finished.

Please attend the January meeting on the 17th to discuss your ideas and sign up to the team.

Looking Out My Back Door - The board discussed sponsoring an exhibit in 2015 called "Looking Out My Back Door". To help us out, observe what is out your back door!

New Business

Future Workshop - We started discussing ideas for a future workshop in early summer; ideas like bird house building, kite making and working with magic model clay are some ideas.

Folks Share Art & Life

Linda Kramer has been invited by Wexford Place's building maintenance engineer to meet with a Thursday men's group he meets with monthly. Doughnuts and coffee is the draw and they sit around and talk. This month Linda will be privileged with the opportunity to be included and will assist the men who wish to make a small clay tree ornament for the holidays. "I have been awaiting this day for over a year!!"

Adjourned

If you have been thinking about attending, join us for our next meeting January 17 10:00 a.m. City Hall.

Please let us know if you would like to be added to our e-mail address list.

From the Desk of the City Clerk:

USER INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT/ONE GRINDER PUMP

Our sewage grinder pumps are aging. We are seeing a few more pump failures than we did when our systems were new. We now know there are a few things that can be done to help prevent premature failures. It is recommended that you use a liquid detergent for laundering.

CARE AND USE OF YOUR GRINDER PUMP

The Environment/One grinder pump is capable of accepting and pumping a wide range of materials. Regulatory agencies advise the following items should not, however, be introduced into any sewer, either directly or through a kitchen waste disposal unit:

Glass, diapers, socks, rags or cloth, metal, plastic objects (toys, utensils, etc.), seafood shells, sanitary napkins or tampons.

In addition, you must NEVER introduce into any sewer:

Explosives	Strong Chemicals
Flammable Material	Gasoline
Lubricating Oil/Grease	

Do not use caustic solutions for drain cleaning. If you must use a drain cleaner, use an enzyme cleaner.

PERIODS OF DISUSE

We have found that in very cold weather, a pump can potentially freeze-up if there is no water usage in the house. If you are going to be gone during the cold weather, we would recommend that you have a friend, neighbor or relative run some hot water down the sink every day or two. This seems to keep the pump from freezing

CAUTION: DO NOT DISCONNECT POWER TO THE UNIT

POWER FAILURES

Your grinder pump cannot dispose of wastewater without electrical power. If electrical power service is interrupted, keep water usage to a **MINIMUM**, please!

The Environment/One Grinder Pump is installed with a warning device. The yellow light should be removed and tested periodically. If you see a yellow pump light on, or the horn blowing on the Southside of the Lake, or if you have any questions about your sewer system, **PLEASE** call Mike Hallauer at 816-365-6469 or Marsha Duncan at 419-5051.

One last recommendation – **DO NOT** run your gutter down spouts or sump pumps into your sewer system.

THANK YOU
Marsha Duncan
City Clerk

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CANDIDATE FILING

**The City of Houston Lake, Missouri will hold an election,
Tuesday, April 7, 2015 to elect the following offices:**

Mayor for two (2) year term.

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

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

**To be a candidate for one of these offices you must file with the
City Clerk, Marsha Duncan, no earlier than Tuesday, December
16, 2014 and no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday January 20, 2015. The
filing forms will be made available by contacting Marsha Duncan
at 816-419-5051.**

City of Houston Lake
Official Minutes of the Council Meeting
November 10, 2014

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on November 10, 2014 at City Hall. The following members were present: Aldermen Phil Otte, Dan Coronado , Rick Cowan and Jean Anderson.

Opening Session

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

Public Discussion

The President of the Homes Association, Larry Haines submitted to the Council, a list of residencies that the Board had some concerns with. Mayor Hallauer will submit this to the Codes Enforcement Officer for review.

Resident Bob King asked why the minutes were not published in the following months Houston Laker. Alderman Rick Cowan told him that the Council has to approve the minutes before they are published. Mr. Cowan will provide more information to Mr. King at the next meeting.

Kerry Hollowell, Iris Arnold and Chuck Stone voiced their disapproval of taking down the quilt and the painting of City Hall. Joyce Kullman said that City Hall needed to be updated. Mayor Hallauer said that City Hall needed to be cleaned and painted and that it will be up to the Council to decide what will stay or be removed from the walls. For the record Alderman Otte noted that the removal of the quilt had never been discussed by the Council.

The residents also asked about the spillway bridge and the potential closing. Mayor Hallauer stated that the Council was looking at all options in the repair of or replacement of the bridge as all of the wood needs to be replaced.

Mr. King asked about the gates the City had ordered and if they were in the city garage. Mayor Hallauer told him that the gates were not and have not been in the city garage.

Mr. King also asked about the money collected from the court. Mayor Hallauer told him that some of the money goes to the state, some to Synergy and the remainder goes into the General fund which is recorded on the Collectors report.

Minutes October 13, 2014

The October, 2014 minutes were approved by general consent.

Building Permit

A Building permit at 5400 NW Wagon Trail for a garage was approved by the Council. The Council also approved a building permit for an existing room addition at 5355 NW Edgewood Trail.

Treasurers Report

The treasurers' report was approved by the Council.

The Treasurers report shows a grand total balance of \$270,592.26.

Resolution11-10-14 (paybills)

The City Council approved Resolution11-10-14 unanimously.

Collectors Report

City Collector Joyce Kullman reported deposits of \$1,529.74 for the month of October, 2014.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

The Platte County Sheriff's Department submitted reports for the month of October, 2014.

No report from Codes Enforcement Officer Mitch Kelly.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Director Dan Coronado reported that he will be attending classes on Radio C program which is a state wide system for emergencies. He will also attend a Regional Council meeting for Hazard Mitigation.

Old Business

None

New Business

a. Mayor Hallauer submitted 2 Proposals to the Council for painting the inside of city hall. One Proposal from About Time General Contracting LLC for \$8,230.85 and the other from L&H Painting for \$2,800.00. The Council unanimously approved the proposal from L & H.

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowan – No report

Alderman Otte – Alderman Otte thanked Alderman Anderson for completing the National Flood Insurance Program.

Alderman Coronado – Alderman Coronado thanked Bob King and Any Spottswood for their help in correcting the drainage problem on Venetian Drive.

Alderman Anderson – Alderman Anderson reported that during recent public discussions, because of the water issues on Venetian Drive there's been a push to enact a law to prevent encroachment to city streets. She consulted neighbors and asked if they'd support a new law preventing encroachments especially if that law were made retroactive requiring property owners to remove encroachments. Those that she talked to before this meeting do not support such a law and it would upset them if they had to remove their off road parking. Therefore she would not support enacting a law against encroachments unless there was a clear majority of residents supporting the law. Rather she'd prefer to spend the energy on improving the water drainage issues we have surrounding city streets. She suggested the city work on using ditches, curbs and culverts along our streets so the cost and benefit is city wide.

Pumpkin Festival was fun, 32 people showed up even though game 7 of the Royals World Series was that night. She thanked Joyce Kullman, Jan and Nick Jackalone, Linda Kramer, and Wendy Thompson for all their help. Everyone had a great time.

She was asked to research printing costs for photos to hang in city hall. "I was not asked to display my photos in city hall as has been reported in the paper. I don't know how that rumor started." She found two bids within reason, \$27 and \$30 per print.

Although she liked the idea of resident's scenic photos on display, she suggested that we not limit the display to just photos. She would prefer to see visual art of all types, including paintings and textiles. She would also like the display to be more like a museum, nothing permanent, rather refreshed quarterly. She would like to see the Houston Lake quilt cleaned and mended if needed, then back on display as part of the rotating cycle of art.

Mayors Report

a. Mayor Hallauer outlined 3 entities that review bills and make sure that we are in compliance with State law: The Missouri Municipal League, Sullivan Publications and the City Attorney. Each entity reviews bills that may affect 4th class cities as well as other cities. The Cities are notified periodically on these changes. The City Attorney checks case law so that cities are not in conflict with State Law. The law states that the City Clerk shall be elected by the Board of Alderman. On 3-10-03 the City Clerk was elected by the Board of Alderman with all four Alderman voting in favor.

b. Mayor Hallauer responded on the “Glorious 90’s” of Houston Lake. The Homes Association at that time ran out of money and the City had more expenses than income. The Homes Association had a leased dredge and begged for volunteers to help. The City had to rely on the welfare of another City to help cover the money shortage for several years to come. The community was divided with hatred. Mayor Hallauer read a comment from one of the residents complaining about the 90’s dredging project. The resident complained on how horrible the Lake looked at that time. “Have a good look at your lake” wrote a resident, “do you really see any improvement”. It seems this resident was “against it” before he was “for it”. Sound Glorious?

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Venetian Gardens Homes Association

Just a reminder, Homes Association dues were sent out the first week of December. Payment is due no later than January 31, 2015 to avoid penalty.

Board Members will be present at City Hall Saturday, January 24th, 2015 from 2-4pm to accept payments and hand out the 2015 Lake Bracelets to paid members.

We wish everyone a very Prosperous, Peaceful and Healthy 2015 New Year.

Larry Haines, President

Keith Carey, Vice President

Gary Halterman, Treasurer

Jan Jackalone, Secretary

Ron Haines, Board Member



VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION

Looking for Volunteers

President , Larry Haines = 816-506-1564, Vice President, Keith Carey = 816-746-4472,

Treasurer, Gary Halterman = 660-492-2068, Secretary, Jan Jackalone = 816-587-0028,

Board Member, Ron Haines = 816-699-5906

Venetian Gardens Homes Association is looking for volunteers to help with projects around the lake. Please call President Larry Haines or one of the Board Members to give your name and phone number to.

Thank You

ADVERTISE IN THE HOUSTON LAKER

HALF PAGE \$10.00/mo. or \$100.00/year

FULL PAGE \$20.00/mo. or \$200.00/year

LAST PAGE OF HOUSTON LAKER – Sorry, already sold!

Have your ad to me by the 24th for next month issue.

For more information call Editor Mary Head 816-741-5639.



from
The Works by Marlene

816-587-1550

by appointment only

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

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Designed for Your skin tones and eye color!

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Connected or disconnected haircuts!!!

Waxing, Waxing, Waxing...

Paraffin for Dry Skin!

Manicures!

Pedicures!



*Happy Holidays,
Marlene*