

Houston
Laker

Happy
Mother's
Day!

LOVE

May 2016



Community Calendar Events

May 3rd - Recycling Day

May 8th -  *Happy Mother's Day*

May 9th - City Council Meeting
7:30pm – City Hall

May 18th - Homes Association Meeting
6:30pm – City Hall

May 21st - Annual City Wide Spring Clean-Up Day

May 25th - Houston Lake Arts Circle Meeting
7:00pm – City Hall

May 30th -  *Memorial DAY*

June 1st - Wednesday – Trash Pick-up

June 1st - Wednesday - Recycling Day

DO NOT FEED THE GEESE



Feeding The Geese

- Feeding attracts more than the area can support naturally.
- Human food is not good for the geese! Bread is awful for geese. They fill up on the wrong nutrients and don't consume the proper food they need to grow flying feathers, making it more difficult for the geese to migrate when they are supposed to!
- Someone who starts feeding just two geese can quickly turn those numbers into 50 geese!
- Geese in high concentrations are more likely to get diseases and parasites.
- Geese droppings harbor parasites that can cause human health problems.
- Goose droppings increase algae growth that, in turn, results in fish kills.
- Goose droppings are unsanitary, unsightly, and contain parasites irritating to humans.
- Geese eat plants needed for ground cover and erosion control.
- Goose-management costs taxpayers money.

Did You Know?

About 12 or so years ago, there was no management of the geese and so by some well-intentioned hand feeders, they were fed and multiplied as well as those who came by way of migration and decided to stay. Before we knew it, you couldn't walk to the mailbox without side-stepping goose droppings. The MO Dept. of Conservation was called in and they allowed us to start a program to control the population. At that time, there were some 120 plus geese on and around the lake. Today, **thanks to volunteers**, the population remains under control. Please help and not feed the geese.

ANNUAL CITY WIDE SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY Saturday, MAY 21, 2016

The City has arranged to have two 30-cubic yard, roll off dumpsters placed at City Hall on Friday, May 20th. The dumpsters will be removed on Monday, May 23, 2016.

The dumpsters are provided for Residents of Houston Lake to dispose of any discarded material, damaged and inoperable merchandise. Residents are asked to bring any items that they want to dispose of to the dumpsters themselves.

For residents who are not able to bring their items to City Hall, please place items at the curbside no later than **8 a.m. on Saturday, May 21st**. Our City truck will collect these items for you.

Please do not block the access to mailboxes or fire hydrants.

Appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators etc., are NOT allowed in the dumpsters. These items require a separate pick up. Please call to arrange this at 816-254-1470.

**NO hazardous waste (paint, chemicals, batteries, tires etc.)
NO yard waste please!!**

If you have any questions, please call: City Clerk Melinda Duncan, 816-741-0644.

Please note: The dumpsters are ONLY for residents of Houston Lake.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Please help!

The City truck will pick up the items placed curbside and we need volunteers to help with this effort. We also need some volunteers to help monitor the dumpsters at City Hall to maximize the space.

We anticipate that the pickup will take 2-3 hours on Saturday morning. All items must be placed curbside no later than 8 a.m. Saturday so it is not an all-day effort.

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION



President, Sherry Burrup = 208-251-8201, Vice President, Nick Jackalone = 816-587-0028,

Secretary & Treasurer, Jan Jackalone = 816-587-0028,

Board Members, Justin Burrup = 913-293-7508 & Craig Sovereign = 816-813-4024

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

Thank You

May 21st, will be the City Clean Up Day. Please be considerate and not place items that can normally be picked up by our trash services as these items will not be picked up. **Items must be placed at curb no later than 8:00am**

Thank You



The Boat ramp is closed and a chain is across it. If you want to put your watercraft in the lake at the boat ramp, call Sherry Burrup or Nick Jackalone.

Thank You

2016 SPRING PLATTE COUNTY CLEAN UP

Standard Load Entry Fee:

- Car, Truck, SUV, Van \$5.00
- Vehicle & Trailer \$15.00
- Loads over 12' \$20.00

*All loads are subject to inspection
& any item or load may be denied.*

NON-BULKY ITEMS MUST BE BAGGED OR BUNDLED

Subject to additional charges if pertinent.

Additional Fees:

- Passenger Tires \$1.00/ea
- Truck/Tractor Tires \$5.00/ea
- Appliances/Electronics* \$20.00/ea

**Appliances are items with motors or compressors.
All appliances must be empty.*

*Acceptable Electronics: console TV's and
Monitors over 32"*

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

**Hazardous Waste,
Liquid Paint, Chemicals, and
NO WASTE FROM BUSINESSES**



Friday, April 29th

Saturday, April 30th

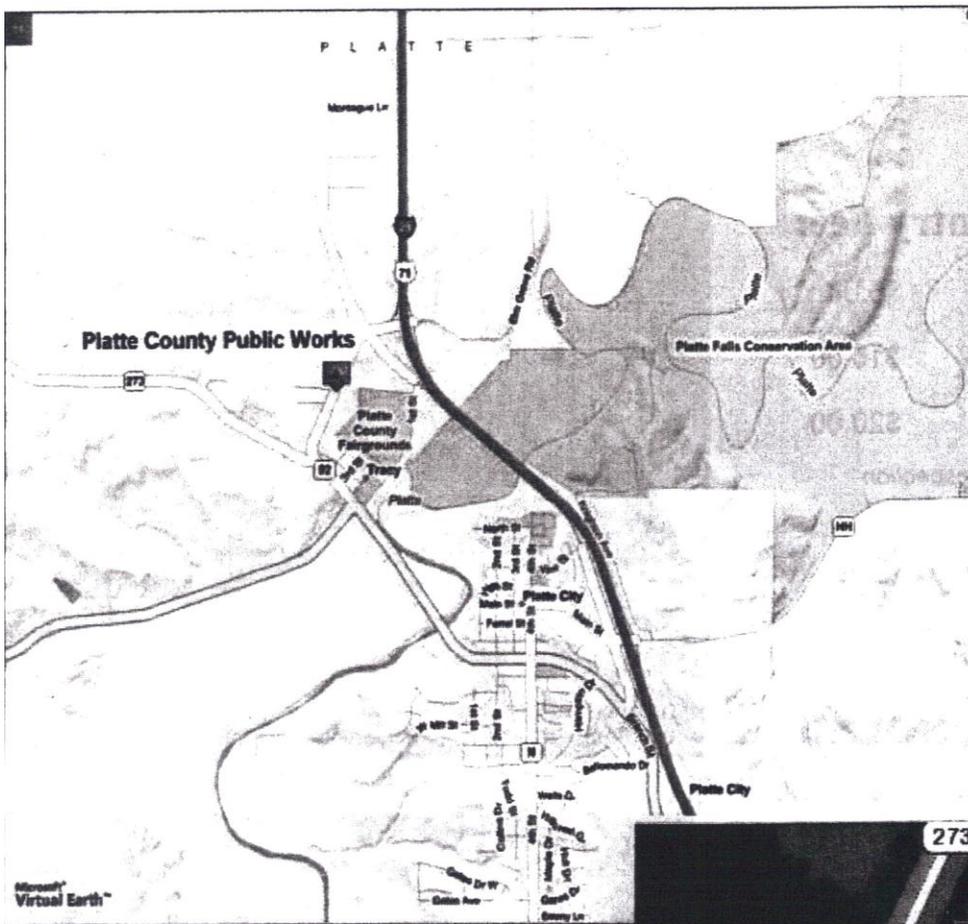
7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Located at
**PLATTE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS**

Exit 20 off I-29
15955 Hwy 273
Platte City, MO 64079

Contact the
Department of Public Works
(816) 858-2223
publicworks@co.platte.mo.us

PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED



Directions:

I-29 to Exit #20
(Tracy/Weston)

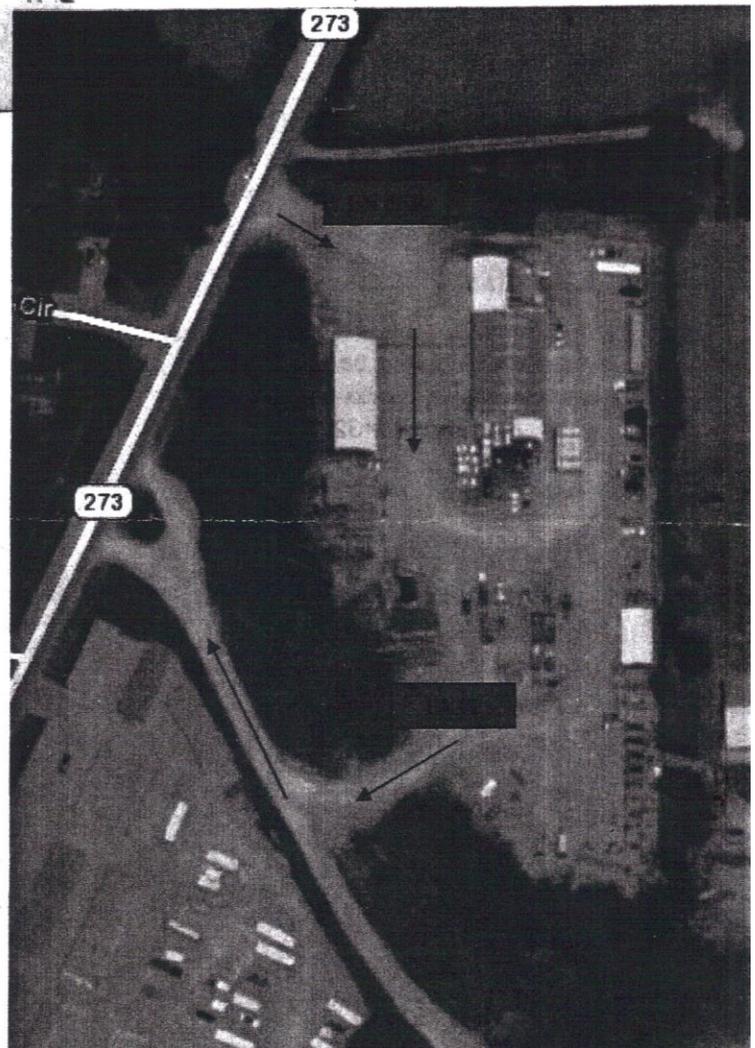
West on Hwy 273

Entrance is 1/4 mile south
on left hand side.

15955 Hwy 273

Platte City, MO

Watch For Signs!



CITY OFFICIALS CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE

Mayor

Joyce Kullman
816-547-8173
(mayor@houstonlake.net)

City Administrator

Joe Chepren
(citymanager@houstonlake.net)

City Clerk

Melinda Cook
816-352-8401
(cityclerk@houstonlake.net)

City Collector

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

Alderman (Ward 1 So.)

Pam Freese
816-726-4455
(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.)

Evadene Judge
816-321-2239
(Nw2-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Municipal Judge

Greg Dorsey
816-785-4284

Court Clerk

Sharon Brandt
816-785-4284

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION

President

Sherry Burrup
208-251-8201
(cybermomx2@gmail.com)

Vice President

Nick Jackalone
816-587-0028

Secretary & Treasurer

Jan Jackalone
816-587-0028
(janjackalone@hotmail.com)
(Lake Tags)

Board Member

Justin Burrup
913-293-7508
(burrjust@gmail.com)

Board Member

Craig Sovereign
816-813-4024
(cksov1@gmail.com)

Registrar

Editor – Houston Laker

Mary Head
816-741-5639

Notary Public

Jan Jackalone
816-587-0028

Sewer Grinder Pumps

Melinda Cook
816-352-8401

Codes Enforcement Officer

Ethan Dean
816-741-0644
(Edean@houstonlake.net)

City of Houston Lake

City Hall 816-741-0644

**For more City and Homes Association Info
go to houstonlake.net**

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 816-352-8401

From the desk of the City Clerk:

“To All Residents of Houston Lake”

1. If any resident needs a trash container or a recycling contact the following people for a timely response and to avoid any confusion. Please leave your name, address and a phone number and the containers will be delivered to your home.

Mayor Joyce Kullman –
816.547-8173

Or

City Clerk Melinda Cook –
816.352-8401

2. According to Ordinance
334, Section 230.025

Open Burning for Recreational Purposes

All residents of Houston Lake wishing to apply for an open burning permit can do so by downloading the application on our website Houstonlake.net or you may call 352-8401. After you have filled out the form, please slip it through the mail slot on the door at City Hall for review and approval by the City Council.

2016 Houston Lake Arts Circle's Art Show

CALL TO ARTISTS

“Drip, Dribble and Splash!”

We had so much fun last year and enjoyed so many wonderful entries into the Art Show that we're going to make it an annual event. All of you, our local resident artists, are invited to once again submit your work for the 2016 Houston Lake Arts Circle's Art Show.

So, once again we are putting out a Call To Artists on the Lake—and that means young and old! We are asking for entries of artwork by our residents that can be displayed in City Hall for a limited, rotating exhibition.

“Drip, Dribble and Splash” is the theme. The Grand Opening will be **August 20th, from 4 to 6 pm, and August 21st, from 2 to 4 pm**, and all entries will be exhibited for those two days. After that, the accepted pieces will be displayed on a rotating basis, giving each artist some time to grace City Hall, and show off to our community what talented people we have and what inspires them to create.

What you enter can be any artistic expression that is inspired by the words *“Drip, Dribble and Splash”*. Any artistic expression includes, but is not limited to, drawing, painting, photography, fiber arts, sculpture, film, video, music, poetry, storytelling and dance. We will have a review committee to determine appropriate artistic expression, exhibit scheduling and display criteria. Specific guidelines and details for submissions are on the entry form on the other side.

Still have questions? Come to Houston Lake Arts Circle's regular meeting to hear more, or call Linda Kramer, President at 816-225-4110.





Sponsored by Houston Lake Arts Circle (HLAC)

“Drib, Dribble and Splash!”

Entry Form and Guidelines:



1. All Artwork must be original, created by the registered artist or artists. No more than two entries per artist or a group of artists, but more than one artist may submit from a single Houston Lake family.
2. The Call to Artists opens on **March 23, 2016** and submissions will be accepted at any regular monthly meeting of the HLAC. Extra entry forms are available then as well. All entry forms must be in by **August 1, 2016**. Entry forms may be mailed to the Houston Lake Arts Circle, c/o City Hall, 5417 N Adrian, Houston Lake, Mo 64151. They may also be dropped off at City Hall, or given to an HLAC board member, or delivered during the regular monthly meeting of the HLAC (the third Saturday of the month at 10 am.)
3. Deadline for final delivery of entered pieces is **Sunday, August 14 between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm**, or by special arrangement via appointment with an Arts Circle board member. Delivery can also be made at any monthly meeting of HLAC at City Hall.
4. Visual art in two dimensions cannot exceed 30” x 36”. All two dimensional art will need to be museum wrapped canvas, or framed, and ready to hang with wire. HLAC does have some frames available for use in limited sizes—please inquire about using those.
5. Three-dimensional art, such as sculptures for indoor display cannot exceed 3’ x 3’, are to weight less than 50 pounds and must be free-standing. Sculptures for outdoor display cannot exceed 3’w x 6’h, must be freestanding and weatherproof.
6. Other art forms that need to be filmed or recorded cannot exceed ten minutes of performance time, and must be in a standard format. Permission will be asked to display these pieces on social media sites, as well as, at a City Hall Screening for the exhibit opening. Contact Rick Cowan with questions at 816-536-9282.
7. All accepted entries will be displayed during the opening weekend of **“Drip, Dribble and Splash”**. The review committee will determine the schedule that each piece will be on display following that and will notify the artist accordingly. All pieces must remain up during their scheduled time. All pieces will remain property of the artist. The artist is responsible for collecting their work when the exhibition ends. Any work not reclaimed after 4 weeks past the end date becomes property of HLAC.

Complete BOTH the following entry forms to submit. Submit Entry Form A to HLAC, attach Form B to your entry.

Drip, Dribble and Splash!: Entry Form A

Sponsored by Houston Lake Arts Circle

(please print)
Artist Name _____

Phone # _____ - _____ - _____

Address: _____

If a child, Age: _____ Parent’s signature _____

Circle Form of ART entering: Dance Performance Painting Sculpture
Poetry Photography Fiber Art Film Drawing Other

If other, describe: _____

Title of piece: _____

Physical description of piece:

Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ Time _____ Media _____

Do you grant permission to have your submission on HLAC’s Facebook page?

YES NO

HLAC will do our best to care for your entry. However, we will not be responsible for any damage that it may incur.

Signature: _____

Date _____

Drip, Dribble and Splash!: Entry Form B

Sponsored by Houston Lake Arts Circle

(please print)
Artist Name _____

Phone # _____ - _____ - _____

Address: _____

If a child, Age: _____ Parent’s signature: _____

Circle Form of ART entering: Dance Performance Painting Sculpture
Poetry Photography Fiber Art Film Drawing Other

If other, describe: _____

Title of piece: _____

Physical description of piece:

Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ Time _____ Media _____

Do you grant permission to have your submission on HLAC’s Facebook page?

YES NO

HLAC will do our best to care for your entry. However, we will not be responsible for any damage that it may incur.

Signature: _____

Date _____

Attention Cat and Dog Owners

Proof of Vaccinations is due May 1, 2016.

SECTION 205.020: Vaccination

The owner or keeper of any dog or cat in the City of Houston Lake is hereby required to have such animals vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian and to procure a certificate of such vaccination from the veterinarian and to present such certificate to the City Clerk on or before **May first (1st) of each year**; and the City Clerk shall register such certificate, which registration shall remain in force until the April thirtieth (30th) next following said registration. It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog or cat to permit such animal to remain in the City of Houston Lake unless vaccinated as above provided.



Don't Forget Your Missouri Fishing License and a Houston Lake 2016 Red Wristband!!

Lake Residents from the age of 16 through 64 need a Missouri Fishing License and a Houston Lake 2016 Red Wristband in order to fish in Houston Lake. Residents 65 and over need only a 2016 wristband.

To get your 2016 Lake Wristbands call Homes Association Secretary/Treasurer, Jan Jackalone 816.587.0028.

The 2016 Red Wristbands are FREE if your Homes Association dues are paid.

Guests of Residents must have that Residents 2016 Red Wristband with them when they are on or around the lake and on Homes Association property.

NO trout lines, jug lines, seine net, gillnetting or unattended fishing lines.

NO FISHING IN THE BEACH AREA.





Important Notice

Trash Pick-up Day



Blue Lid Trash Cart

Your recycling day will also be on a Tuesday 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 Joyce Kullman - 816-547-8173 or
Melinda Cook - 816-352-8401.**

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 Wednesday of that week.

2016 Holiday Schedule:

Pick-up Day

New Years (Friday 1-1-16)

Tuesday 12-29-15

Memorial Day (Monday 5-30-16)

Wednesday 6-1-16

Independence Day (Monday 7-4-16)

Wednesday 7-6-16

Labor Day (Monday 9-5-16)

Wednesday 9-7-16

Thanksgiving (Thursday 11-24-16)

Tuesday 11-22-16

Christmas (Sunday 12-25-16)

Tuesday 12-27-16

New Years (Sunday 1-1-17)

Tuesday 1-3-17

2016 Recycle Schedule



**Yellow & Green Lid
Recycling Cart**

January 12
February 9
March 8
April 5
May 3
June 1
June 28
July 26
August 23
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 13



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 Joyce Kullman -816-547-8173 or Melinda Cook 816-352-8401.

HOMES ASSOCIATION NEWS

I wanted to take a moment and share some things with everyone.

I am presently in the process of contacting several companies to get a good deal on work at the silt pond. It has been breached above the dam and is constantly pouring more silt than normal into the lake. We are looking at getting it excavated and the rocks on the peninsula placed around it. Once the silt pond is completed, we can focus on the horse shoe. I am looking into State Grant Programs for any funding we may qualify for. With the rock removed from the peninsula we can then clean it up.

Questions and concerns about the easement around the lake have been coming about. I would like to take a moment and clear it up. We asked our lawyer to give us a clearer explanation of the easement, this is a quote from that letter:

“The person who is responsible for the damage/clean up will be the person who owns the land. An easement does not make the HOA the owner of that portion of the land. An easement merely gives the HOA the right to do certain things. The easement that was created only gives the HOA the authority to enter the property and install pipe, sewers or other necessary construction for the transmission of water, gas, electricity, and sewage. Because the HOA does not own the property, it has no responsibility to the damage or clean up.”

I have been asked several times about who is responsible for fallen trees in the lake. The tree belongs to the home owner of the land from where it fell and is the home owners responsibility to remove it.

Recently the HOA has placed 2 docks at the north end of the lake, providing access to the lake for the north side of the lake. I would like to thank Loren Head and Chuck Stone for helping move the docks to their new homes. We couldn't have done it on that windy day without your help.

Also on one last note, I want to say a great big thank you to everyone that has been randomly cleaning and keeping our lake beautiful. I have seen so much great work and care being taken, but don't always see who is doing what. So thank you all for loving and taking care of this lake.

Thanks A Ton,

Sherry Burrup , HOA President

Cybermomx2@gmail.com

Venetian Gardens Homes Association

Minutes of April 20, 2016 Meeting

Board Members present were Sherry Burrup, President; Nick Jackalone, Vice President; Jan Jackalone, Secretary-Treasurer, Justin Burrup Board Member. Craig Sovereign, Board Member was not available. Ten member's households were represented.

President Sherry Burrup welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She began with an update on getting some information about the silt pond from a couple of engineering companies because the embankment on each side of the rocks has eroded and needed to be taken care of. She was looking into State funding for possible projects including playground equipment. There was a question raised about why previous studies done were not being used. Pres. Sherry said she was in the process of gathering information before anything would be brought before the members to vote on. Board Member Justin also said that much of the information was out of date and that there was no follow through on the suggestions that were made in previous studies.

Pres. Sherry mentioned that two docks were donated by Loren Head and were moved to the North side of the lake and they were there for all members to use. A member pointed out that there were docks on the lake who had "private signs" on them. The HOA will place signs on docks owned by the HOA so members will know which are there for their use.

Secretary Jan asked for any corrections or additions to the November 2015 Annual Minutes. There were none so the minutes are approved.

As Treasurer, Jan updated the members on the bank account balances and the status of delinquent dues. She was in the process of filing three liens on members whose dues were into the \$1000 or more range. Jan also said that our lawsuit was settled out of court and we received \$2000. That money was deposited into the money market account.

Pres. Sherry also thanked those folks for picking up trash around the lake. She asked for more volunteers to come forward because there are a lot of projects to do around the lake. Mayor Joyce Kullman said that the lake trash pickup day was set for May 21. (More details on that in the Houston Laker.)

Next Association Meeting will be May 18th at 6:30 PM. Meeting adjourned at 7:15PM.

City of Houston Lake
Official Minutes of the Council Meeting
March 14, 2016

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on March 14, 2016 at City Hall. The following members were present: Mayor Joyce Kullman, Aldermen Phil Otte, Dan Coronado, Jean Anderson and Rick Cowan.

Opening Session

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Joyce Kullman.

Public Discussion

Resident Joseph Briones inquired about the status of a neighbors' home. He informed council that there is an open well in the backyard of this home, which could impose danger to his toddler. Council will look into this matter, and Joseph will be contacted.

Minutes February 17, 2016

The February 17, 2016 minutes were approved.

Building Permit

A building permit for a fence at 5527 NW Venetian Drive, was approved by the Council with a waiver of the city ordinance and restrictions in regards to the height of the fence. A building permit for a fence at 5335 NW Edgewood Circle was also approved by the Council. Recreational burning permits for 3520 NW Edgewater Trail, 5408 NW Edgewater Trail, and 5402 NW Venetian Drive were all approved by the Council.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer's report was approved by the Council.
The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$412,872.00.

Resolution 3-14-16 (paybills)

The Council approved a bill for the Platte County Sheriff 's Department for the month of February that was not included in Resolution 3-14-16. The City Council approved Resolution 3-14-16 unanimously.

New Business

- a. Missouri Rural Services Worker's Compensation Insurance Trust will be renewed.
- b. The Council will discuss and vote on the Animal Control Contract with Platte County at the next City meeting in April.
- c. The Council thanked City Administrator Joe Chepren for all of the hours of hard work that he has done for our City.
- d. Mayor Joyce Kullman stated that all residents that apply for a burn permit, and get approved will receive a copy of the permit for their records.

e. The Council suggested that everyone please pay attention to the Red Flag Warning, also known as a Fire Weather Warning, a forecast warning issued by the United States National Weather Service.

f. Mayor Joyce Kullman informed everyone that we are still actively seeking a Codes Enforcement Officer, and that we have a candidate in mind.

Code Enforcement/Sheriff's Report

The Platte County Sheriff's Department submitted a police report for the month of February, 2016.

No codes report.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Director Dan Coronado informed everyone that on March 15, 2016 there would be a statewide tornado drill. He also mentioned that Platte County Emergency Management would be holding a CERT class at the Platte County Resource Center on June 10th, 11th, and the 16th. On April 30, 2016 from 9:00-2:00, Platte County Resource Center will be having a CPR class. Dan informed us that our current CERT team members are himself, Phil Otte and Nick Jackalone.

Reports from Aldermen

Alderman Cowan -Alderman Rick Cowan stated that the new art, from the Art Circle is now on display in City Hall and that it looks great.

Alderman Otte – N/A.

Alderman Coronado - Alderman Dan Coronado stated that he was pleased to see all the boats on our lake, and wants everyone to please be sure to have the proper safety equipment on board. Mayor Joyce Kullman informed everyone that Alderman Dan Coronado would be retiring, and she thanked him for his many years of service.

Alderman Anderson – Alderman Jean Anderson thanked City Administrator Joe Chepren for all of his hard work. Alderman Anderson stated that the artwork has been replaced with their Spring Show. Alderman Anderson also informed everyone that the next Art Circle meeting would be on March 23, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, she would like to see more people involved in this event. Mayor Joyce Kullman informed everyone that Alderman Anderson would be retiring and thanked her for all of her hard work and many years of service.

Mayors Report

N/A

Closed Session

Mayor Joyce Kullman made a motion to go into a closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021 (3) for discussion of Personnel, seconded by Alderman Cowan. Motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The following article appeared in the Houston Laker on Aug. 1, 1983 after the Floating Dock project was completed. Enjoy the story!

Houston Laker

Aug. 1, 1983

" SAGA OF THE FLOATING DOCK "

Under the design of Master Engineers, Jewel Head and John Meyer (Jewels, Brother-In-Law) Houston Command developed, masterminded (and with the backing and financing of the Homes Association Conglomerate) a Floating Dock.

From the inception of design planning and basic construction to completion was a long and tedious task. Total time involved from drawing board to construction completion took 3 hours.

After 2 days of admiring the masterpiece and with the finishing touches to be applied, finally "HOUSTON LAUNCH DAY" was set for July 2, 1983 at 3:30 pm.

On July 2nd, as launch time was drawing down, due to a major malfunction launch time was aborted. The boarding steps to the platform was dropped into the lake. It was necessary to import a diving team of experts to retrieve them. The steps were located in 4 ft. of water. After mounting the steps and attaching the anchor weights (to prevent dock from drift flotation) a new launch time was established for 4:30 pm.

A huge crowd of well wishers had gathered at the Houston Launch Pad Site (Jewel's back yard) consisting of Mary Head, Nancy Jackalone, Master Mechanic Dennis Daugherty and Muffin the Mascot, this huge crowd was about to witness this "Historical Float Off". Time Magazine had commissioned Mary Head as Chief Photographer for this mission and Mary was prepared to take pictures of this exclusive story for publication.

All dignitaries that were present were amazed "The Dock" was actually floating. Under the expert guidance by the Ship Master Loren Head, "The Dock" was under tow at last "FLOAT OFF".

With a brief stop at the beach dock, a minor adjustment was completed (one end of the dock was under water) and finally "The Dock" was off to its stationary position. Upon arriving at the designated site for resting another minor malfunction had developed (loosing one weighted cable at the bottom of the lake). Master Mechanic Daugherty was summoned for his assistance, after 10 minutes of basking in the mud on the bottom of the lake, the cable was retrieved and reattached to the support system. "THE DOCK" was made ready for use.

48 hours later, Platform Commander Nick Jackalone was summoned by Master Engineer Jewel Head, "The Dock" was in real trouble, it seemed the "DOCK" was spinning in the water. Houston Command dispatched a boat with Jewel Head and Nick Jackalone for further evaluation and investigation. It was determined "The Dock" had sustained support damage, we had lost 3 support cables. Cable clamps were not tight.

A search was on for the corrective action to be taken at resting site, to eliminate removal of "The Dock". However rescue was on its way. Master of Technology and Repairs Bill White and crew from the beach had reached us. Bill took command and after many hours of soaking in the water and with skin wrinkled. Bill did locate and repair the 3 support cable system, without his devoted skills to this matter "THE DOCK" seemed doomed.

The conclusion of this "Historical Float Off" can now be told. "THE DOCK" is now again in Orbit and Usable. Thanks to all who contributed their time and talents for this successful launching.

The story was written by Nick Jackalone.

The following article appeared in the Houston Laker on Oct. 27, 1984, after the bridge project was completed. Enjoy the story!!

Oct. 27, 1984

Houston Laker

" REPAIR OF THE HOUSTON BAY BRIDGE "

The City Officials of the Great Metropolis City of Houston Lake were in a state of panicsville due to the condition and deterioration of the Houston Bay Bridge. After many lengthy city meetings and sleepless nights of worry, it was unanimously approved by Council action to procure the most professional team of experts for bridge repair. The City Planning Board had consulted numerous firms to handle this job and by process of elimination chose this group of courageous, fearless and outstanding firm call "THE FLY BY NIGHT CONSTRUCTION FIRM". A meeting was scheduled with this firm to determine the downtime on the bridge. Due to the extensive nature of repair and the hazardous elements, which involved working at great heights above the treacherous water of Houston Lake which was infested with Mary Ann Hedges "GREAT WHITE TURTLES" that can take a mans leg off at one bite, it was determined that the closure could take at least one year. Cost was no factor, it had to be repaired. R-DAY (Repair Day) was set for 0900 on the 11th of October 1984.

R_DAY #1 R-Day was upon us, the team of experts were on site as contracted. Under the eagle eye of Bridge Superintendent, Leo Howerton who quickly evaluated that the planking head bolts needed to be removed in order for new planks to be installed. A major decision was made by Leo Howerton that the only way to remove the head bolts was to torch them off. Jewel Head and Bill Harlan were summonsed for the torch job. These two men's reputaton had preceeded them, for they are the most notorious torch men in all of Platte County and noted for the quickest torch in the Mid West. Leo Howerton was now if full command of this tedious repair job. The Muscle Crew (Nick Jackalone, Bob Murray, Bob Cordell and Art Dishinger---working crew) was standing by for action. With pry bars and crow bars and the sparks a flying, the old planking was being removed. As the day dragged on, along with blood sweat and tears and many splinters, aching backs and arms, sight seers could observe that this team of experts had made a definite dent in the bridge. (Someone hit a board with a sledge hammer).

By late afternoon, additional support group had arrived to assist the weary who had braved the hot scorching sun and humidity. Bill White, Bob Kelly and Gene Charles were the reinforcements that was so badly needed. By Five - O - Clock all the old planking had been removed (Ripley, believe it or not). Bob Kelly, the instrument of encouragement to all the weary workers, gathered this tired crew and spoke words of wisdom to all (BREAK IS OVER, GET BACK TO WORK). At Six-O-Clock, all the new planking had been laid into position for the next days work. All individuals were now leaving for R and R (Rest and Retreat). It had been a good days work. As of this time frame, this team of experts were at least 6 months ahead of schedule.

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R_DAY # 2 On site, as the second day arrived, Bridge Super had previous commitments and would not be available that morning however, Leo left inspiring words to all(When I return, you had all better be working)keep up the good work. A team of drillers was standing by to drill the new planking and for placing new head bolts to be installed and tightened. Jewel Head and Nick Jackalone with their trusty drills started this holey project, by mid morning these new planks looked like a piece of swiss cheese. As the day continued all bolts had been installed and in the final process of tightening. The Muscle Crew was in fine tune, with the coordination from all workers the bridge was starting to take shape. By late afternoon, the second team arrived to assist in the final bolt down process. New guide rails were installed and side railings were taking final shape. Another day was closing to an end, time for(Coor's) R and R. Again this fine team of experts were now 11 months and 29 days ahead of schedule.

R_DAY #3 and REDEDICATION

On site, as the third day arrived, a new team of experts had arrived for the final touches, The Honorable Mayor Barnes, Sgt W.Scott and Jim Murphy. The arrival of this finishing team was a great morale booster, for this meant, completion time was fast approaching. All working crews were now completing the final repair of the side railings. We had only one obstacle to encounter, the dreaded team of "Bridge Inspectors"; These Bridge Inspectors, known as the HARD NOSES, were, Joyce Harlan, Mary Head and Linda Charles, the most hard nosed and the pickest Inspector of all was known as "Raggie". If this bridge could pass the inspection the bridge could be re-opened. As the inspector made their rounds, the team of experts held their breath awaiting the YEA or NEA approval. We received three inspection approvals so far, but the hard nosed inspector named RAGGIE (Nosey one) was still sniffing around, this was a moment of anticipation. RAGGIE finally found a spot and raised her leg. WE MADE IT, we were finally approved for reopening. Mayor Barnes had notified the V.I.P. who was to attend the Dedication Ceremony, but do to prior commitment, Mr Auggie Busch would be unable to attend. Mayor Barnes substituted for the honors. Due to a bad year for grapes, Mayor Barnes popped a tab off of a can of BUD and the Christening and Rededication Began. The bridge was officially opened. Can you believe it, this team of professionals completed this awesome repair job in just two and a half days, 11months and 29 days ahead of schedule. A word to the Parkville Road District " EAT YOUR HEART OUT".As I write this incredible story, I have received around 3000 phone calls for bridge repair. I THINK OUR GANG WILL PASS . A sincere thanks to all who donated their time and talents for this "A JOB WELL DONE "

N. Jackalone



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