

# *Houston Laker*

*“May Flowers”*



*By Sydney*

*May 2017*



# Community Calendar Events

*May 2<sup>nd</sup> - Tuesday Recycling Day & Trash Pick up*

*May 8<sup>th</sup> - City Meeting  
7:30pm – City Hall*

*May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> - 2017 Platte County Clean Up = 7:30am – 4:30pm  
Located at Platte County Public Works, Platte City, Mo.*

*May 14<sup>th</sup> -  Mother's Day*

*May 17<sup>th</sup> - Venetian Gardens Homes Association Meeting (HOA)  
7:00pm – City Hall*

*May 24<sup>th</sup> - Houston Lake Arts Circle Meeting  
7:00pm – City Hall*

*May 29<sup>th</sup> - *

*May 31<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday Recycling Day & Trash Pick up*

## **Missouri American Water**

This is an important message from Missouri American Water. Missouri American Water is conducting its annual hydrant maintenance and flushing program. This work, which helps to ensure continued water quality and fire protection, will be taking place in your area beginning on April 19th and will continue for about 5 weeks. While Missouri American Water crews are working, customers may experience a slight drop in water pressure or draw some discolored water for a short period of time. This is normal and should be temporary. If discolored water occurs, it is recommended that customers let their cold water run briefly and it should clear up on its own. If discolored water occurs please refrain from doing laundry during that time. Missouri American Water will also be switching from the current water treatment method to free chlorine during this period. This may result in a temporary chlorine taste and odor in the tap water. This is not a cause for concern. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**CITY OFFICIALS  
CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE**

**Mayor**

Pam Freese  
816-726-4455  
([pam@houstonlake.net](mailto:pam@houstonlake.net))

**City Administrator**

Joe Chepren  
741-0644  
([citymanager@houstonlake.net](mailto:citymanager@houstonlake.net))

**City Clerk/Sewer Grinder Pump**

Amber L. Moore  
816-741-0644

**City Collector**

Jean Anderson  
816-645-1529

**Alderman (Ward 1 So.)/Mayor Pro Tem**

Joyce Kullman  
816-547-8173  
([joyce@houstonlake.net](mailto:joyce@houstonlake.net))

**Alderman (Ward 1 So.)**

Nick Jackalone  
816-587-0028

**Alderman (Ward 2 No.)**

Phil Otte  
816-741-5477  
([Nw1-alderman@houstonlake.net](mailto:Nw1-alderman@houstonlake.net))

**Alderwoman (Ward 2 No.)**

Evadene Judge  
816-321-2239  
([Nw2-alderman@houstonlake.net](mailto:Nw2-alderman@houstonlake.net))

**Codes Enforcement Officer**

Cathy Grove  
816-741-0644

**Platte County Circuit Court Clerk**

Kim Johnson  
816-858-2232

**Platte County Sheriff**

Non emergency 816-858-2424  
For emergencies please call **911**

**City of Houston Lake**

City Hall 816-741-0644

**VENETIAN GARDENS  
HOMES ASSOCIATION (HOA)**

**President**

**Dam/Watershed Officer/Projects**

Joe Chepren  
816-741-0644

**Vice President**

Nick Jackalone  
816-587-0028

**Secretary / Treasurer/Notary Public**

Jan Jackalone  
816-587-0028  
([janjackalone@hotmail.com](mailto:janjackalone@hotmail.com))  
(Lake Tags)

**Board Member**

Kerry Hallowell  
816-695-4100

**Board Member**

Keith Carey  
816-564-2125  
([cacareyc21@gmail.com](mailto:cacareyc21@gmail.com))

**Registrar/Editor – Houston Laker**

Mary Head  
816-741-5639

**Grant Funding Officer**

Pam Freese

**Special Events Officer**

Melinda Cook

**Offsite Engineering**

Anthony Chepren

**Aerator Maintenance**

Gary Halterman

**Water Quality Officer**

Sharron DeLaFuente

**Wild Grow Program Officer**

Linda Kramer

**Wildlife Control Officer**

Janette Boehm  
816-746-8258  
([jboehm5@kc.rr.com](mailto:jboehm5@kc.rr.com))

**For more City and Homes Association Info  
go to [www.houstonlake.net](http://www.houstonlake.net)**

## Attention Cat and Dog Owners

### Proof of Vaccinations Due May 1, 2017

#### **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.

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Ordinance No. 339

Passed March 11, 2013

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 205.010 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE GOVERNING THE REGULATION OF ANIMALS WITHIN THE CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:

The definition of *Vicious Dog and Running At Large* contained in Section 205.010 of the Code of the Ordinance of the City of Houston Lake is hereby amended to read:

***Vicious Dog:*** Any of the following dogs:

1. Any dog, whether or not running at large and whether or not unrestrained, that without provocation has bitten any person not a trespasser serious physical injury to that person.
2. Any unrestrained dog, whether or not running at large, that without provocation has attempted to bite any person not a trespasser which would cause serious physical injury to that person.
3. Any unrestrained dog, whether or not running at large, that without provocation has placed any person not a trespasser in apprehension immediate serious physical injury.
4. Any dog that has killed another dog, cat or other domestic animal without provocation.

***Running at Large:*** Allowing a dog or cat to be off the private premises of the owner or keeper or his/her agent or servant and not on a leash or confined to the arms, motor vehicle, trailer or other conveyance of the owner or keeper, his/her agent or servant. Provided, however, that if the owner or keeper allows a dog or cat to be off the private premises of the owner or keeper, but maintains positive physical control of the animal through use of an electronic device, and maintains constant visual contact with, and control over, the animal, this shall not constitute *running at large*.

# 2017 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: TVs, Computers, &  
Printers*

Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Contact the

Department of Public Works

(816) 858-2223

[publicworks@co.platte.mo.us](mailto:publicworks@co.platte.mo.us)

Located at  
**PLATTE COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS**

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

**PROHIBITED ITEMS:  
HARZARDOUS WASTE, LIQUID  
PAINT, CHEMICALS, AND NO  
WASTE FROM BUSINESSES**



## ***Directions:***

I-29 to Exit #20

(Tracy/Weston)

West on Hwy 273

Entrance is 1/4 mile on left  
hand side.

15955 Hwy 273

Platte City, MO





## 2017 Houston Lake Arts Circle's Art Show

### CALL TO ARTISTS

## “Birds, Blossoms and Bugs!”

We had another great Art Show last year with so many wonderful entries, we are looking forward to this year's show just a few months away. All of you, our local resident artists, are invited to once again submit your work for the 2017 Houston Lake Arts Circle's Art Show.

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.

“*Birds, Blossoms and Bugs!*” is the theme. The Grand Opening will be **August 12th, from 4 to 6 pm, and August 13th, 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 “*Birds, Blossoms and Bugs!*” 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)*  
*"Birds, Blossoms and Bugs!"*



**Entry Form and Guidelines:**

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The Call to Artists is open and submissions will be accepted at any regular meeting of the HLAC. Extra entry forms are available then as well. All entry forms must be in by **July 29, 2017**. 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 fourth Wednesday of the odd months at 7 pm.)
- ◆ Deadline for final delivery of entered pieces is **Sunday, August 6 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ All accepted entries will be displayed during the opening weekend of **"Birds, Blossoms and Bugs!"** 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.

**PLEASE READ**

1. **Both Form A and Form B need to be complete for each piece entered in the Art Show.**
2. **Submit Form A to the HLAC by July 29, 2017 to register your entry (artwork does not have to be submitted at this time).**
3. **Attached Form B to your artwork when you deliver it to HLAC on for before August 6th.**

**Birds, Blossoms and Bugs!**  
**Entry Form A**

Submit this form to HLAC by July 29, 2017 to register your entry

(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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Birds, Blossoms and Bugs!**  
**Entry Form B**

Attach this form to your artwork when you deliver to HLAC on or before August 6, 2017

(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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Houston Lake Arts Circle News

## **HLAC Board Member Elections**

We will be holding elections at our next meeting for the positions of Secretary as well as Treasurer. The Secretary takes notes during meeting and drafts minutes. The Treasurer manages the HLAC funds. Please join us on Wednesday, May 24 at 7pm.

## **Kids Sun Painting Workshop**

Save the Date! Friday, June 9 at 3pm the HLAC will host a children's art workshop at City Hall using the sun to paint and learning how light is involved with photography. A \$2 donation is suggested to help cover cost of materials. More details to follow in future Laker issues and at our next meeting, Wednesday, May 24 at 7pm.

## **Call to Artists on the Lake**

Art entries for the 2017 Art Show, "Birds, Blossoms and Bugs!" need to be registered by July 29. Get those creative juices flowing – we look forward to our best show yet! Any artistic expression inspired by the theme includes, but is not limited to, drawing, painting, photography, fiber arts, sculpture, film, video, music, poetry, storytelling and dance. More details, and entry forms, to follow in future Laker issues and at our next meeting, Wednesday, May 24 at 7pm.

## **2017 Art Show**

This year's art show, Birds, Blossoms and Bugs, will be on Saturday, August 12 from 4-6pm and on Sunday, August 13 from 2-4p. This is your chance to see all the new exhibits and meet the artists! Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

## **Ever dream about your art being on the cover?**

Now is your chance! HLAC has been asked to provide images for the cover of the Houston Laker! Please send an electronic image of your art to [arts.circle@houstonlake.net](mailto:arts.circle@houstonlake.net) for consideration. We welcome submissions from any resident of Houston Lake – young or old!

**Our next meeting will be at city hall on Wednesday, May 24 at 7pm. Please join us!**

## Homes Association Rules and Regulations



### Don't Forget Your Missouri Fishing License and a Houston Lake "2017 Royal Blue Wristband"!!

Lake Residents from the age of 16 through 64 need a Missouri Fishing License and a Houston Lake 2017 Royal Blue Wristband in order to fish in Houston Lake. Residents 65 and over need only a 2017 Royal Blue Wristband.

No Fishing in the Beach Area.

To get your 2017 Royal Blue Wristbands call Homes Association Secretary/Treasurer, Jan Jackalone 816-587-0028.

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

Guests of Residents must have that Residents 2017 Royal Blue Wristband with them when they are on or around the lake and Homes Association property.



1. Lake tags will be issued to lot owners who have paid the current years Homes Association fee. Lot owners will be responsible for all wristbands issued to their property.
2. Lake Wristband must be worn by Residents, Lot Owners or Guests. Wristband should be visible.
3. Private property. No trespassing. Residents, lot owners and guests only.
4. Property owners are responsible for the conduct and actions of their guest at all times.
5. No DIVING from the Swimming Docks because of shallow water.
6. No. swimming after 9:00p.m.
7. Alcohol will not be allowed in the beach area.
8. Animals will not be allowed in the beach area.
9. Fishing will not be allowed in the swimming area.
10. No disorderly conduct.
11. All Rules and Regulations of the Missouri State Conservation Commission will apply.
12. No trot lines, jug lines or unattended fishing lines are permitted.
13. All Terrain Vehicles, motor bikes, motor cycles and motor scooters are prohibited from operating on Homes Association property.

***PLEASE NOTE: Houston Lake is dedicated to preventing the spreading of Zebra Mussels. If you want to launch your boat into our lake, you must call no less than 12 hrs. ahead so that your boat maybe inspected. You must also have a lake wristband, watercraft safety equipment (life vests) and adhere to lake rules.***

***This applies to NEW boaters. However, safety equipment applies to ALL boaters.***

***CALL NICK JACKALONE 816-587-0028.***

# CANADA GEESE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

## PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) are a modern success story for wildlife management. At one time, numbers of Canada geese were in serious decline. However, the actions of various wildlife agencies have brought their numbers in North America to an estimated 5,600,600 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2009).

Unfortunately, this dramatic increase in population has resulted in some negative consequences.

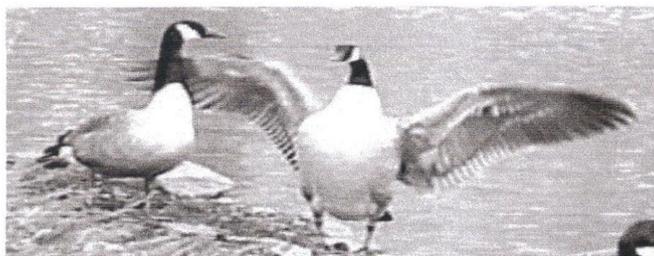
First, large numbers of geese leave large quantities of feces. A single goose can defecate every 20 minutes (Bowen and Valiela 2004) up to 1.5 pounds of feces each day (French and Parkhurst 2009). This problem is magnified when we realize that approximately 67% of those geese are non-migratory or resident geese (Dolbeer 2006). In other words, land and lakes frequently do not get a sustained rest from geese presence. If large numbers of geese congregate, one must wonder if there is a health risk related to the feces left on ground and in the water. French and Parkhurst (2009) note that "beaches and other public areas littered with accumulated goose feces have been closed due to the contamination or the threat of personal injury resulting from falls as people lose footing on the slippery material." So concerns regarding goose droppings are not simply speculative.



Many have raised concerns about the diseases found in the droppings of Canada geese. Photo Stephen M. Vantassel.

### Human Health and Safety:

Many residents are concerned that Canada geese pose a potential threat to human health and safety. There has been speculation from public resource managers, citizens, and the media that Canada geese can transmit diseases to humans through direct contact with feces or through water-borne disease transmission. Although scientific studies have shown Canada goose feces to possess human pathogens such as *Cryptosporidium species*, *Giardia species*, *Salmonella species*, and *E. coli*, the potential risk of transmission to humans is not well understood. However, drinking water reservoirs and swimming areas have been temporarily closed due to high levels of *E. coli* attributed to goose feces.



Canada geese can be aggressive.

As a precautionary measure people are encouraged to minimize direct contact with goose feces, remove shoes prior to entering the home following contact, and wash hands thoroughly with an antibacterial soap. Additional examples of safety concerns include goose/aircraft collisions, traffic hazards, slipping on goose droppings, and being attacked by aggressive geese (which often occurs when people get too close to nests or goslings).

So, if you are at the beach with children, you can point out geese feces to them with instructions to stay away, and can tell them not to place their hands or fingers into their mouths while they are playing on the beach. Also, they need to wash their hands after leaving the beach and, even more importantly, before eating.

## Please do not feed the Geese!

|                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                     |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|
|  <p>NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION<br/><b>RUTGERS</b><br/>COOPERATIVE<br/>RESEARCH &amp; EXTENSION</p> | <h1>Fact sheet</h1> | FS1027 |
| <p>For a comprehensive list of our publications visit <a href="http://www.rce.rutgers.edu">www.rce.rutgers.edu</a></p>                                                                                |                     |        |

<http://goaskalice.columbia.edu/geese-feces-health-risks>

<http://icwdm.org/handbook/birds/CanadaGeese/HumanHealth.aspx>

## SUMMARY:

Canada geese in New Jersey and elsewhere provide a range of economic, recreational, aesthetic, and ecological benefits. However, these positive benefits are often overlooked because of negative impacts to agricultural crops and damage to residential, commercial and public property, and natural resources. Concerns raised by citizens, natural resource managers, and the media about possible human health and safety issues have also had an effect on the way Canada geese are now perceived by the general public.

## REFERENCES:

- Bellrose, F. C. 1980. *Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. Wildlife Management Institute. Stackpole Books. Harrisburg, PA.
- Drake, D. and J. B. Paulin. FS1024. 2003. *A Goose is a Goose? Differences Between Migratory and Resident Canada Geese*. Rutgers Cooperative Extension.
- Kullas, H., Coles, M., Rhyan, J. and L. Clark. 2002. *Prevalence of Escherichia Coli Serogroups and Human Virulence Factors in Faeces of Urban Canada Geese (Branta Canadensis)*. International Journal of Environmental Health Research 12, 153-162.
- Paulin, J. B. and D. Drake. 2002. FS1010. *Birding in the Garden State*. Rutgers Cooperative Extension.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Resident Canada Goose Management*.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002. *2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*.

Photos Courtesy of Joseph B. Paulin

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**RUTGERS COOPERATIVE RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
N.J. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY  
NEW BRUNSWICK**

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Houston Laker Editor — Mary Head; Andy Spottswood who provides the color copies of the front colors for the Houston Laker is moving away from Houston Lake. The color copies were provided free of charge from his own business. Pres. Joe stated to the Editor that the HOA won't permit any costs for color copies as it is not in our budget. Editor Head stated she could go to regular black and white printing. Pres. Joe stated he was willing to work together to look at options for upcoming editions.

Minutes from the November Annual Meeting, which were printed in the March Houston Laker were approved with no corrections.

Collector/Treasurer's Report — Jan Jackalone said that we had a Combined Total of \$149,904.01 in the checking and Money Market accounts. Pres. Joe said that our Fixed Budget is anywhere from \$19,000 to \$20,000 and those that fall behind are affecting what gets done of the Lake.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Pres. Joe said the Seawall Repair at Beach Park was still open.

Chain Link fence at the Beach Park was repaired/replaced.

Inlet Dam (water flowing into the silt pond) a Scope of Work is being prepared as a \$5,000 expenditure is approved in the 2017 Budget.

KCMO Waste Water Mgmt/Sediment Basin Outlet Project was completed with no cost to the HOA.

Basically a cement cast was placed over the sewer line that ran by the bridge over the silt pond on Adrian to prevent a rupture to the sewer line. Pres. Joe was there with the contractors to make sure that the cement poured would not be a blockage for the water going into the horseshoe and it is working efficiently to protect the pipe and allow for excess water to go into the lake. Nice Job!

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Pres. Joe and Secy/Treas. Jan gave a summary:

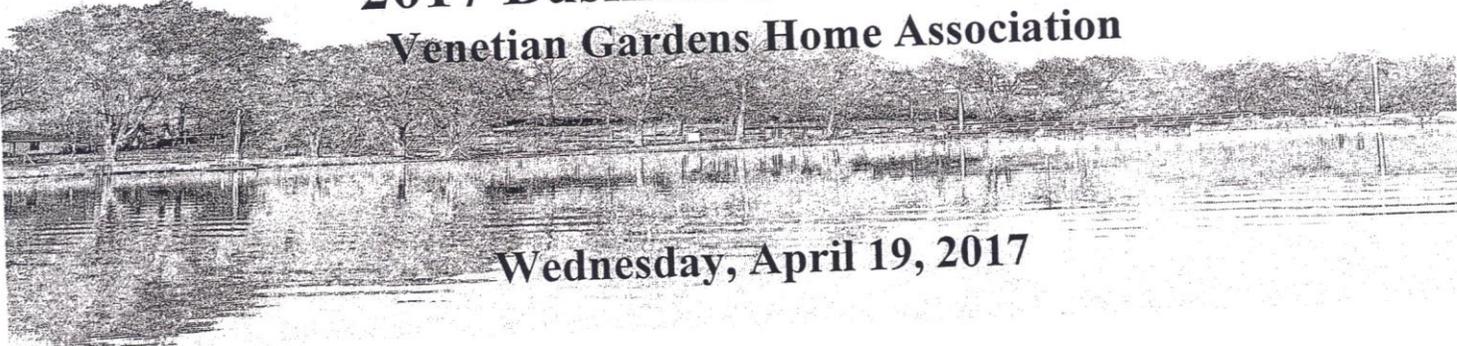
2017 — 2018 Business Plan for the HOA. If you weren't there, there was a lot of good communication between HOA members and the Board. Some items were detailed out through discussion and a copy of the 2017 Business Plan Summary is attached for your review.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30PM. Next Meeting is May 17, 2017

***PLEASE NOTE: Houston Lake is dedicated to preventing the spreading of Zebra Mussels. If you want to launch your boat into our lake, you must call no less than 12 hrs. ahead so that your boat may be inspected. You must also have a lake bracelet, watercraft safety equipment (life vests) and adhere to lake rules.***

***This applies to NEW boaters. However, safety equipment applies to ALL boaters.***

***CALL NICK JACKALONE 816-587-0028***



# 2017 Business Plan Summary

## Venetian Gardens Home Association

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

**On behalf of the Venetian Gardens Homes Association Directors,**

I would like to submit our 2017, 18 Business Plan Summary.

### **Key Targets of the plan:**

- 1) Financial Stability:
  - a. Control Spending:
  - b. Managing Approved Budget.
  - c. Applying For Grants.
  - d. Collection
- 2) Review VGHA by Laws. Amend as needed:
  - a. Voting Procedures.
  - b. Boat Docks
- 3) Civil Projects:
  - a. Inlet Dam at Jumping Creek.
  - b. Aerator System.
  - c. Survey of Water Levels, Water Quality.
  - d. Grow Native and Parks.

### **Shared Thoughts,**

I feel the information you will receive by attending our meetings, is well worth a few hours of your time. Please remember your elected board of directors is only as strong as its members. With attention to details and positive input, we as a community can accomplish our desired goals.

Sincerely,

Joe Chepren  
President, Venetian Gardens Home Association

April 19, 2017  
5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, Missouri 64151

## GETTING ALONG WITH OUR NON-HUMAN RESIDENTS

With so many new residents having moved into our community this year, I thought maybe an overview of living in a lake community might be in order. In addition to all the new human neighbors you'll meet there are a few non-human residents you may encounter too.

Water draws wildlife. Some of the creatures spotted regularly are deer, groundhogs, herons, beavers, muskrats, "white" squirrels, raccoons, foxes, sunning turtles and of course fish, just to name a few. Eagles and flocks of cormorants aren't strangers either.

With all wildlife, each has a place in our special Houston Lake ecosystem as they are what makes it so special to live here. They are also protected by law.

And usually the only thing you have to know to live in harmony is even what they're called — wild life. DO NOT feed them. DO NOT try to make them pets. DO NOT approach them.

If you see an injured animal, call me at 816-674-3973. If you just have questions, feel free to call as well.

### We Control Our Goose Population

Our Missouri waterways are very popular with migrating birds such as Giant Canada Geese, and at different times of the year you may not see any; at other times there may be up to 100. From spring through fall however, we have a resident population of around three dozen. They come back year after year.

Canada geese weigh about 12 pounds on average. They have a six foot wingspan making them one of the largest flying birds in Missouri. They generally mate for life, but will choose another if the first one dies. They are also fierce protectors of their eggs and babies.

Giant Canada geese are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-711) as are their nests and eggs. Each year we apply for a permit to oil or addle eggs to keep the population at a manageable number. We have also made a conscious effort to alter the habitat that attracts them with rock and brush along the shoreline.

There's so much to enjoy here so keep your eyes open and your camera handy!

Sincerely,

janette boehm, wildlife officer, 816-674-3973

**City of Houston Lake**  
**Official Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**March 13, 2017**

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on March 13, 2017 at City Hall. The following members were present: Mayor Joyce Kullman, Alderman Evadene Judge, Pam Freese, Nick Jackalone, and Phil Otte.

**Opening Session**

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

**Public Discussion**

Resident Rick DeLaFuente, of 3440 NW Edgewater Trail expressed his concern about the bridge closure. Mayor Kullman informed him that our City insurance agent advised that we do not reopen the bridge due to substandard railing. Due to the fact that the City would be liable if another accident should occur.

Resident Sharon DeLaFuente, of 3440 NW Edgewater Trail informed Council that she had spoken with Intern Director Bob Hine, with Platte County Public Works; he stated that he would talk to the State Inspector to see what they would recommend as far as replacing the railing, but that we would need to have an Engineering study. She also wanted to let everyone know that every Friday morning the Commissioners go to various restaurants and the public is encouraged to come to discuss any issues or concerns they might have. She also gave thanks to Mary Head for publishing the Houston Laker for 39 years. She stated that she felt that it is a major source of communication for Houston Lake and she would like to see the City continue to show Mary their support for her efforts.

Resident Chuck Stone, 5408 Houston Lake Drive expressed his concern about the bridge closure.

Resident Debbie Callicotte, of 3309 NW Edgewater Trail, inquired about the closure of the bridge. Council informed her that the repairs from the car accident that caused the damage have been completed. After reviewing the bridge inspection report from August 2016, the bridge is unsafe for travel, due to the structural design of the railings, which were graded substandard. Mayor Kullman will discuss with City Administrator Joe Chepren about scheduling an inspection by MODOT and if required, engineering study. The bridge will remain closed indefinitely.

New resident Shelly Bruelle, of 3420 NW Edgewater Trail thanked Mary Head for publishing the Houston Laker, as she found it very informative and was a contributing factor in finding their home here at Houston Lake. She stated that there had been a few car break- ins in the past few months, and inquired as to who handles Houston Lake jurisdiction. Mayor Kullman informed her that Platte County Sheriff's Department patrols Houston Lake. She also inquired as to who would handle complaints about an unkept home. Mayor Kullman introduced Codes Enforcement officer Ethan Dean and she was given his information.

Resident Mary Head, of 5328 NW Houston Drive wanted to inform everyone about a gathering on March 15, 2017 at City Hall to celebrate 60 years of the Houston Laker from 6:00-7:30 PM. Cake, punch and coffee will be served as attendees review all of the old Houston Lakers.

### **Minutes February 13, 2017**

The February 13, 2017 minutes were approved by general consent.

### **Building Permit**

None

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mayor Kullman informed Council that at last month's meeting a motion was passed to create a new CD at The Bank of Weston upon approval of the February 13, 2017 minutes. A CD will be set up at the bank.

The Treasurer's report was approved by Council.

The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$440,996,27.

### **Resolution 3-13-2017 (paybills)**

Mayor Kullman informed Council and attendees that the furnace at City Hall was in need of a service call, it needed a new sensor and was repaired for \$238.00. Our water usage at City Hall was high and that the Water Department would be coming to check for leaking pipes.

The City Council approved Resolution 3-13-2017 unanimously.

### **Emergency Management**

Mr. Shelton, Assistant Fire Chief and Emergency Manager for Riverside informed Council and attendees the City of Riverside had dissolved their Department of Public Safety, they now have an independent Police Department with a Police Chief and independent Fire Department with a Fire Chief. He stated that all services would remain the same. He also stated that registering with Nixle.com is a great way to get emergency notification in our area either by email or text messages.

### **Police Report-Fire Department Report**

Reports were presented to Council and attendees.

Mayor Kullman asked that everyone please keep an eye out for suspicious vehicles or people and to please call the Sheriff's Department so they can check into situations should they arise.

### **Codes' Enforcement Report**

A codes' report was presented to Council and attendees.

### **City Administrator Report**

No report.

## **Venetian Gardens' Homes Association Report**

No report.

### **New Business**

Mayor Kullman presented Bill No. 031317-1, Disband HL Municipal Court. Alderman Freese made a motion to put Bill No. 031317-1 on its first reading by title only, seconded by Alderman Jackalone. The City Clerk read Bill No. 031317-1 by title only.

Alderman Jackalone made a motion to put Bill No. 031317-1 on its second reading by title only, seconded by Alderman Otte. The City Clerk read Bill No. 031317-1 by title only.

Alderman Freese made a motion to put Bill No. 031317-1 on its final passage, seconded by Alderman Otte.

Roll call: Alderman Jackalone- Aye                      Alderman Freese-Aye  
                    Alderman Otte-Aye                              Alderman Judge-Aye

Bill No. 031317-1, Ordinance 362 was passed.

### **Reports from Alderman**

**Alderman Freese-** Informed everyone that City Administrator Joe Chepren and herself are in the process of working on the tree grants. A licensed tree arborist will be taking a look around the lake and decide what kind of work needs to be done which will include trimming, removal, and upkeep, and then we would receive matching funds. They are working with the Homes Association on this as well.

**Alderman Jackalone-** No report

**Alderman Otte-**He asked that everyone show concern for the renewal of our Fire Suppression during the April election. He also thanked Mary Head for all her work on the Houston Laker. He asked that people please make sure to report all suspicious vehicles or people to the Sheriff's Department.

**Alderman Judge-** No report

**Mayors report-** Thanked Mary Head for her dedication to the Houston Laker. She also wanted to recognize the Grow Native Committee as they have received the grant for new park benches. Again emphasized the importance for all residents to call the police should they see any suspicious activities.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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## 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 816-741-0644 or contacting your Alderman.

## “To All Residents of Houston Lake”

1. If any resident needs a trash container or a recycling container, call City Hall 816-741-0644 and leave your name, address, phone number and the containers will be delivered to your home.

### 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](http://Houstonlake.net) or you may call city hall and leave your name and phone number. 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.

#### Fire Danger

Over the years, Kansas City has issued several Red Flag Warnings to alert residents against starting fires. Please pay attention to the local news and refrain from starting any fires.



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