

HOUSTON LAKER

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2018



“ICE BLOSSOMS”

JANUARY 2018

“Santa poses for pictures with young guests”



Mayor Freese reads “T’was the night before Christmas”



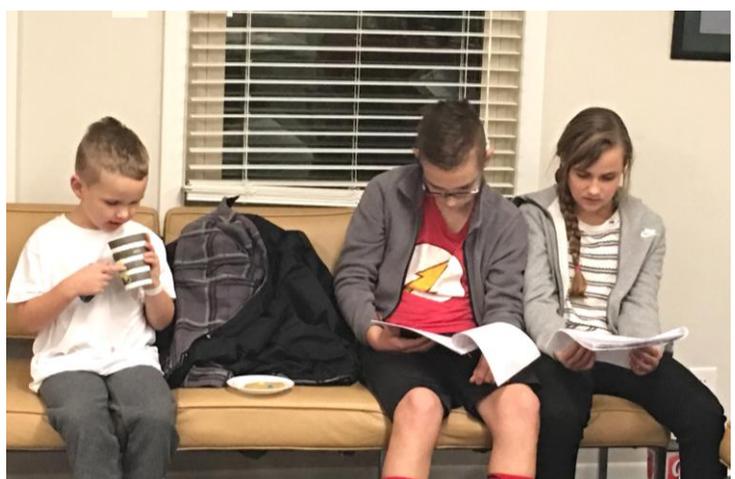
“Santa leads the singing of Christmas Carols”



“Santa sings beside a table full of cookies”



“some guest enjoys hot cocoa”



January Community Calendar Events

Jan. 1st -



Jan. 8th - City Council Meeting, 7:30pm, City Hall

Jan. 9th - Recycling Day

Jan. 16th - Closing date for Candidate Filing. Please contact City Clerk, 816-741-0644.

Jan. 17th - Venetian Garden Homes Association meeting, 7pm, City Hall.

6:30pm-7pm Treasurer, Susan Hodges, will be at City Hall to accept dues & hand out 2018 Lake Bracelets to paid members.

Jan. 18th - Houston Lake Arts Circle; Art, Life and Folks meeting, 7:00pm, City Hall.

Jan. 27th - Venetian Gardens Homes Association Treasurer, Susan Hodges, will be at City Hall 2:00pm to 4:00pm to accept payments & hand out the 2018 Lake Bracelets to paid members.

NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CANDIDATE FILING

The City of Houston Lake, Missouri will hold an election,
Tuesday, April 3, 2018 to elect the following offices:

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,
no earlier than Tuesday December 19, 2017, and no later than 5p.m.

Tuesday January 16, 2018. The filing forms will be made available by contacting
City Clerk at 816.741.0644

Notice

Homes Association minutes was not available at the time of publication. They will be available on line early January. (houstonlake.net click on newspaper and go to January 2018)



“Houston Lake Ice”

is not thick enough to skate on.

Please do not get out on the ice.

Betty DeLaFuente: Our Own Grandma Moses?

An Artist Spotlight -By Wendy Thompson

When Betty DeLaFuente was a young girl, her favorite subject in school was art. She remembers, in particular, being fascinated with paper mache sculpture in the third grade. Her mother, however, had different ideas on how she should spend her time, in other words, chores! So, little Betty did not pursue her interest in art for another seventy-plus years. Her life as an artist began at 84.

Most of us know Betty as one of our long-standing neighbors. She has lived here since 1961 and raised her family here. She has seen neighbors move in and move away again. Her kids grew up, life changed, and she went through a divorce. Then, in recent years, her health began to fail. It was during a hospital stay that her daughter, Sharron, gave her a coloring book to give her something to do and Betty discovered that she liked to spend time creatively. Not long after that, the Houston Lake Arts Circle held its inaugural Art Show. Betty thought she might like to enter that. Sharron said that it had to be an original drawing to be entered and her mother took that as a challenge. She wasn't sure she could do it, but by the time the next Art Show rolled around, she had two entries ready to submit—"Lighting the Way" and "Sailing the Ocean So Blue." Those entries were very well received. Her style is refreshing and pleasing, according to Linda Kramer, President of the Arts Circle.

Although Betty began this new chapter just to see if she could do it, she has found comfort and a sense of accomplishment in her art. Her studio is her kitchen table when she has quiet time with no interruptions and where she can look out the window to find her inspiration. She told me, "I like to draw animals and buildings and birds. And, Sharron encourages me to keep on drawing. I like to draw windmills." Creating a new piece brings happiness, enjoyment and the satisfaction of finishing a drawing that is as good as she wanted it to be.

When she is not drawing, Betty is writing a book about her life, one that includes memories of Houston Lake—of the kids playing baseball up on the ridge or sneaking off to Moore's Store to buy candy, of dance lessons in the basement of the house across the street, and of friendships with Gus Van Earp, Laura Cansler and Iris Arnold.

She feels her art has progressed significantly over the past two years. Her entries in this year's Art Show reflect that—"The Country School", drawn from a memory of a place in Bonner Springs, Kansas and now on display at City Hall; and "The Redhead", inspired by one of our feathered friends, which will be a part of the spring exhibit. Betty continues to draw and develop her art. Sharron continues to be her cheerleader. "This never would have happened if it weren't for the Arts Circle."

Since Betty came to art so late in life, it is easy to compare her to Grandma Moses. Both women began the process as a restorative during health problems and although Betty may not achieve the nationwide fame of Grandma Moses, she has certainly taken a place on the walls of our City Hall. In a way, you could say that Betty DeLaFuente is both one of our oldest artists and one of our newest.



"Windy" by Betty DeLaFuente

CITY OFFICIALS

CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE

Mayor

Pam Freese 816-726-4455
(mayor@houstonlake.net)

City Administrator

Craig Sovereign 816-741-0644
(citymanager@houstonlake.net)

City Clerk

Megan Micek 816-741-0644
(cityclerk@houstonlake.net)

Sewer Grinder Pump

Megan Micek 816-663-0894

City Collector = Jean Anderson

(taxcollector@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 1 So.)/Mayor Pro Tem

Joyce Kullman 816-547-8173
(sw1-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 1 So.)

Nick Jackalone 816-587-0028
(sw2-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 2 No.)

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

Alderman (Ward 2 No.)

Chuck Stone 816-305-3196
(Nw2-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Code Enforcement Officer

Cathy Grove 816-741-0644
(codesenforcement@houstonlake.net)

Platte County Circuit Court Clerk

Kim Johnson = 816-858-2232

Platte County Sheriff

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

Fire Dept. Dispatcher = 816-741-1191

Fire Dept. Admin. = 816-372-9024

City of Houston Lake City Hall = 816-741-0644

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (HOA)

President = Joe Chepren

Dam/Watershed Officer/Projects

Park & Maintenance Officer

816-741-0644

Vice President = Keith Carey

816-564-2125 (cacareyc21@gmail.com)

Secretary = Kerry Hallowell

816-695-4100

Treasurer/ Lake Tag = Susan Hodges

816-786-2377 (hodges.susan@outlook.com)

Board Member = Gary Halterman

816-266-5200

Registrar/Editor – Houston Laker = Mary Head

816-741-5639 (mhead@houstonlake.net)

Offsite Engineering = Anthony Chepren

Aerator Maintenance = Gary Halterman

Water Quality Officer = Sharron DeLaFuente

Wild Grow Program Officer = Jan Jackalone

Wildlife Control Officer = Janette Boehm

816-746-8258 (jboehm5@kc.rr.com)

Communications/Public Relations Officer

Shelly Broll (hoacommunications@houstonlake.net)

Grant Funding Officer

Special Events Officer

For more City and Homes Association

Info go to www.houstonlake.net

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, and 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 City Clerk

One last recommendation – DO NOT run your gutter down spouts or sump pumps into your sewer system. Thank You, City Clerk

2018 Recycle Schedule



**Yellow & Green Lid
Recycling Cart**

January 9
February 6
March 6
April 3
May 1
May 30
June 26
July 24
August 21
September 18
October 16
November 13
December 11



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 call City Hall and leave a message with your name, address and phone number. City Hall: 816-741-0644.



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 call City Hall and leave a message with your name, address and phone number. City Hall: 816-741-0644.

For questions relating to your services please call Maria Kristek 913-927-1903 between 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday – Friday. She works at Republic Services our trash service.

The holidays that Republic Services Trash Company observes are New Years, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. When any of these holidays fall on Monday or Tuesday, your trash pickup will be on Wednesday of that week.

2018 Holiday Schedule

New Years (Monday 1-1-18)

Memorial Day (Monday 5-28-18)

Independence Day (Wednesday 7-4-18)

Labor Day (Monday 9-3-18)

Thanksgiving (Thursday 11-22-18)

Christmas (Tuesday 12-25-18)

New Years (Tuesday 1-1-19)

Pick-up Day

Wednesday 1-3-18

Wednesday 5-30-18

Tuesday 7-3-18

Wednesday 9-5-18

Tuesday 11-20-18

Wednesday 12-26-18

Wednesday 1-2-19

Trash and Recycle Bin Retrieval!

If you have extra Trash or Recycle bins that you are NOT using, the city would like them back! The trash bins are blue with wheels and the recycle bins are blue with yellow lids and wheels. Please call City Hall and leave a message with your name, address and phone number and we will arrange a time to pick up the extra bins. City Hall: 816-741-0644

Thank you!

VENETIAN GARDEN'S HOA SPOTLIGHT: NEWS AND INFORMATION
Issue 1, Volume 2
December 2017

1. Treasurer's Report:

- The HOA is currently under budget for 2017.
- 2018 HOA dues are due 31-Jan-2018; Past due amounts are subject to a 10% late fee.
- Make checks payable to Venetian Gardens Homes Association.
- Questions: Contact Susan Hodges, Treasurer (816) 786-2377.

2. Water Treatment of phosphorous levels and aquatic vegetation - This is an important topic to the residents of Houston Lake and the HOA wants to best serve its residents by exhausting every option for the safest, most effective and affordable solution.

- To provide the HOA with the additional time to pursue and present these options to the community, an updated proposal will be presented in the January 2018 public meeting with community voting targeted for February 2018.
- See below follow up Q&A responses from Solitude Lake Management.
- Send any questions comments via email to hoacommunications@houstonlake.net

Q&A RESPONSES FROM SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT

QUESTION	ANSWER
What is the main cause of our high phosphorus count?	The large watershed provides a large amount of run-off into the lake. The nutrients in any fertilizers will cause significant phosphorous, as well as any vegetation and organic materials (leaves, grass, animal droppings) will emit nutrients.
Why would we want to kill off our primrose?	Primrose is an invasive species, while it might not look bad now it spreads quickly and could potentially take over a section of the lake causing an interruption to water flow.
Are the treatments chemicals?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aquatic algaecides (algae)-yes 2. Contact aquatic herbicides (duckweed, coontail, primrose)-yes 3. Systematic aquatic herbicides (duckweed, coontail)-yes 4. Aquatic surfactants (algae, primrose)-yes 5. Aluminum sulfate (algae, invasive aquatic weed growth)-no natural compound
Are the treatments herbicides?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aquatic algaecides (algae)-algaecide 2. Contact aquatic herbicides (algae, duckweed, coontail, primrose)-yes 3. Systematic aquatic herbicides (duckweed, coontail)-yes 4. Aquatic surfactants (algae, primrose)-chemical 5. Aluminum sulfate (algae, invasive aquatic weed growth)-no, natural compound
What are the names of all the herbicides?	We plan to use the following: Captain XTR (algae), Diquat (duckweed), 2,4D (primrose), Nautique (coontail), and Li-700 (surfactant). Our applicators use only EPA-certified chemicals and as prescribed by the label for use.
What is in the herbicides?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Captain XTR: Copper Ethanolamine Complex 2. Diquat: Diquat Dibromide 3. 2,4D: Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, Dimethylamine Salt 4. Nautique: Copper Ethylenediamine Complex, Copper Triethanolamine Complex 5. Li-700: Soyal Phospholipids, Propionic Acid
Is aluminum sulfate synthetic?	No, it is a water-soluble chemical compound. In this case it acts as a flocculant or coagulant in order to bind the excess phosphorus.
Will the treatments affect swimming/water activity for a period of time after application? (e.g., 24 hours, 48 hours or N/A)	Typically, no there are not any water use restrictions. With Diquat, there is a 24hr restriction, but only if we go at a full label rate, and it is rare that we do. We would be sure to let you know beforehand if there were any but at most it's going to be a 24/48hr swimming/fishing restriction. If the lake is used for irrigation, it can sometimes be a little bit longer.

VENETIAN GARDEN'S HOA SPOTLIGHT: NEWS AND INFORMATION
Issue 1, Volume 2
December 2017

Q&A RESPONSES FROM SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT

QUESTION	ANSWER
Is there a single treatment/application that can address multiple plant vegetation?	Sometimes similar plants can be treated with the same herbicide. It is very important to correctly identify vegetation in order to ensure we use the correct treatment protocols. In the case of Houston Lake, we need to use different types of chemicals for each plant.
How many acres is our lake?	According to Google Earth, we have anywhere from 19.2-acres to 26.2-acres. Rain events can cause an increase in surface acres or a dry season would have the opposite effect.
What results can we expect?	For a chemical treatment, 60-70% reduction in vegetation is typical. You should see results within 7-10 days after application to the treated vegetation.
Will you provide references of lakes within a 50 mi. radius?	Currently, we do not have clients within that radius. I do have references for other communities in the St. Louis area attached that can call on for their experiences and results.
How often does the company utilize grass carp in services?	This is difficult to quantify because each situation and budget is different. If I had to say a number it would be 30% and it is in conjunction with another form of management (ie: aeration, chemical).
Please provide a cost proposal for grass carp stocking.	Grass Carp – At most we would stock 130 carp. Proposal provided to the HOA Board. Note that carp are not invasive; don't reproduce.
Does the company offer assistance in working with the government or county to monitor and slow water run off?	We can certainly assist in these conversations – we work with an engineering firm based in Kansas (APEX) that has experience with looking at cost-sharing with local government as well as best practices that could be put in place. As said in the meeting, we cannot enforce these practices but if the local government felt compelled to make some changes we can consult. The engineering firm could potentially provide an assessment along with recommendations for an additional cost. Since the watershed area is so large, it may be cost prohibitive.
Please provide information on the pros and cons of using grass carp to control vegetation.	Informational one-page sheet provided to the HOA Board.
Please provide estimated cost of modifying our spillway and outflow.	After consulting with our fisheries team, we would not be able to do this until we discussed with an engineer and had something designed for your specific lake. In this case, before adding a structure to prevent escapement we would have an engineer approve a design, and then have the device built to specs. When modifying spillways and outflows we need to understand what other effects it may have on the lake and surrounding areas. We have not had a similar project to be able to estimate additional cost.

Action Items

Date Created	Date Due	Closed Date	Status New/ Open/ Ongoing/ Closed	Owner First Initial Last Name	Committee/ Sub-Committee	Description
2016	Feb2018		Ongoing	J. Chepren	Watershed	Inlet Dam – Remove Debris / Bowl Out – Pending first opportunity following ground freezing
2017	Q1-2018		Open	J. Chepren	HOA	Review / Rewrite By-Laws as Needed
20Sep2017	Q1-2018		Open	J. Chepren	HOA	Review and request necessary revisions to the HL Insurance Policy
18Oct2017	Q1-2018		Open	J. Chepren	HOA	Develop Business Plan Summary

VENETIAN GARDEN'S HOA SPOTLIGHT: NEWS AND INFORMATION
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Date Created	Date Due	Closed Date	Status New/ Open/ Ongoing/ Closed	Owner First Initial Last Name	Committee/ Sub-Committee	Description
18Oct2017	20Dec2017	20Dec2017	Closed	S. Broll	Communications	Provide responses to community questions from the Solitude Lake Management presentation.
20Dec2017	03Jan2018		NEW	K. Hallowell/ S. Broll	HOA	Kerry Hallowell (Board Member) will contact Riss and Weatherby Lakes and Shelly Broll will contact Lake Waukomis to learn which water quality company(ies) and treatment programs are being used.
20Dec2017	03Jan2018		NEW	G. Halterman	HOA	Gary Halterman (Board Member) is researching Grass Carp stocking programs by Missouri Department of Conservation.
20Dec2017	03Jan2018		NEW	G. Halterman	HOA	Gary Halterman will research cost to purchase a lake rake for coontail removal and maintenance.
20Dec2017	03Jan2018		NEW	G. Halterman	HOA	Gary Halterman will research cost to purchase a skimming net for removal of floating vegetation and maintenance.
20Dec2017	03Jan2018		NEW	J. Briones	Resident	Joe Briones will research the chemical compounds provided in the Q&A from Solitude Lake Management and report findings to the Board.
20Dec2017	03Jan2018		NEW	J. Chepren	Communications	Joe Chepren will schedule a closed meeting to discuss ongoing research on the lake treatment project (all board members plus Shelly Broll and Joe Briones) to determine needs, goals and strategy to present to the community in February 2018 for voting on the water treatment program.

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

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

1. Opening Session

- The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Freese.

2. Public Discussion

3. Minutes September 18, 2017

- Mayor asked for an approval of the September and October minutes. Mayor asked for an approval of tonight's agenda,
Alderman Kullman motioned, Alderman Otte seconded the motion.
Roll call-Aye: Jackalone, Kullman, Otte, Stone Opposed: None
Motioned passed

4. Building/Burn Permit

5. Treasurer's Report

- Mayor asked for motion to approve the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$241,734.97
Alderman Jackalone motioned, Alderman Kullman seconded the motion.
Roll call-Aye: Jackalone, Kullman, Otte, Stone Opposed: None
Motion passed
- Kay and Joyce talked about payouts from the court accounts. County indicated it could be held for six months and then distributed.

6. Collector's Report

- No concerns with report. Report included with meeting packet

7. Resolution 11.13.17 (Paybills)

- Mayor asked for a motion to approve Paybills 11.13.17
Alderman Jackalone motioned, Alderman Kullman seconded the motion.
Roll call-Aye: Jackalone, Kullman, Otte, Stone Opposed: None
Motion for Resolution 11.13.17 passed.

8. Emergency Management-Fire Department

- No report at this time.

9. Police Report

- Officer Mountain gave a summary of the report attached.

10. Codes' Enforcement Report

- Cathy Grove, Code Enforcement Report presented the codes report October 2017.
Report included with meeting packet

11. City Administrator Report

- Announcement was made that Wagon Trail is paved and completed.

12. Venetian Gardens' Homes Association Report

- Solitude lake management maintaining lakes and nuisance. Suggestions on testing the water sent a kit and Joe and his son sampled the water. They gave a detail study. There was a rep that gave a onsite visit. Chemicals can be used to not harm the fish. Experts in the field, biologist that do studies. She will be at the HOA meeting this Wednesday to talk to residents. December meeting will discuss options and cost. Last meeting to vote

13. Old Business

14. New Business

- Ordinance #366, renewal of franchise agreement with Spire (MGE, Read twice by city clerk
Mayor asked for a motion to approve Ordinance # 366
Alderman Kullman motioned, Alderman Stone seconded the motion.
Roll call-Aye: Jackalone, Kullman, Otte, Stone Opposed: None
Motion passed.

15. Reports from Alderman

Alderman Jackalone-Very concerned about the American flag – National Flag Co will come out and fix the flag

Alderman Kullman-

Alderman Otte-Thanked any veterans that were present and law enforcement officers. He also inquired about CERT training. Road Closed Signs are up on Houston Drive and Jeffery/Edgewater

Alderman Stone- attended CERT training. Alderman Stone also expressed concern with the sign on Kansas City property. MODOT has jurisdiction of the sign and complies.

-Houston Drive renters have moved out, house is vacant at this time. New renters are a possibility

-Have been working on a survey for Houston Lake residents-has a rough draft for review by council

16. Mayors report

- Dennis Hallauer passed away in the summer and wanted to acknowledge him and his dedication to the City of Houston Lake.
- Iris Arnold pass away suddenly.
- JD Redinger from Bartlett & West Engineering firm, are going to work within \$7000 report grant for the City. MARC is working with them as well. Grinder pump community any info. Bridge engineering assistance program project tracking form which is the name of the grant he is working with. Offer grant writing at a cost, but willing to work with Jan Jackalone.
- Joe Chepren, City Administrator, announced his resignation.
- Amber Moore, City Clerk, announced resignation. Last council meeting will be December 11, 2017

17. Adjournment

- Mayor Freese asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Alderman Kullman motioned, Alderman Jackalone seconded the motion.
Roll call-Aye: Jackalone, Kullman, Otte, Stone Opposed: None
The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Next Council Meeting

December 11, 2017 at 7:30pm.

Priority Roofing

Telephone: (816) 880-3908



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John & Scott Rieger

Email: info@priorityroof.net



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*Happy Holidays,
Marlene*