



Artist Shelly Broll shows her weaving to artist Betty DeLaFuente and her daughter Sharron DeLaFuente

September 2019 Edition



Untitled weaving of painted papers by Evonne Briones

Houston Laker

Arts Exhibition

Web of Life - Threads Interlacing

The Arts Circle: (L to R) Jean Anderson, Shelly Broll, Evonne Briones and Linda Kramer. Kathryn Kreider was out of town for the show opening.



is the theme for the fifth annual Houston Lake art exhibit. The exhibition, presented by Houston Lake's Art Circle, is months in the making. Early in the year the Arts Circle selects and publishes the theme and registration form. Summertime brings the Children's Workshop which is based on the exhibition theme. This year they used willow branches to make forms then helped children use string, yarn, feathers and other materials to create small weavings. After the workshop everyone starts working on their own creations. Finally it's August and time to return last year's art work and install the new show. This year's big reveal happened August 10th. Artists ranging in age from 3 to 87 with a wide variety of materials and interpretations on the theme produced a wonderful, inspiring exhibition. To see all the artwork go to <https://www.facebook.com/pg/artscircleofhoustonlake/>

Awards Banquet held at the Longview Mansion, Lee's Summit, Missouri

MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE - WEST GATE REGION CIVIC LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Houston Lake

Honorees: Mary Head

Presenter: Mayor Pam Freese

Mary has served the city of Houston Lake in many capacities. She has been the source of our local newsletter "The Laker," for 41 years. Mary served as city clerk for 17 years and is currently holding a seat on the Homes Association Board.

Mary's dedication to the City and her community is unparalleled and she provides a wealth of information and history to the community.

Civic Leadership Awards Banquet 2019

July 25, 2019 I honored Mary Head whose decades of service to Houston Lake are unparalleled in our community. Thank you again Mary for all that you do! Mayor Pam Freese and President of the West Gate Division Missouri Municipal League.

Mary became very involved with community projects. She helped with community functions, such as holiday parties and working elections at City Hall. One very interesting project that Mary was involved in was helping microfilm all of Houston Lakes' City records. Mary was a Notary for twenty years and still Registrar. She has been City Treasurer for three years, Court Clerk part-time, Garden Club President for four years and Garden Club Treasurer for thirty-four years. Started the 4th of July Annual Picnic in 1997. Along with all of these positions, comes countless hours in attending speeches, meetings and seminars.



September Community Calendar Events

- Sept. 2nd -  Labor Day
Sept. 4th - Wednesday Trash pickup
Sept. 9th - City Council meeting 7:30pm City Hall
Sept. 11th - Venetian Gardens Homes Association meeting 7:00pm City Hall
Sept. 17th - Recycling Day
Oct. 16th - Venetian Gardens Homes Association Annual Membership meeting, 7pm City Hall
-

Beach Area

Great Plains Analytical Laboratory tested a water sample extracted from the Houston Lake swim dock at the beach area on Thursday August 22, 2019 by Sharron DeLaFuente. The water sample was analyzed for both Fecal Coliforms and E. coli. Results conclude that Houston Lake is safe for swimming.

Fecal Coliforms (water) = 29* **E. Coli (water) = 12***

*If the geometric mean of the water quality sample results does not exceed the equivalent of 190 E. coli colonies or fecal colonies per 100 milliliters of water (190 mpn/100 ml), conditions are safe for swimming. Children under 14 years of age require Adult supervision when using the beach area.

This is a State Law. Venetian Gardens Homes Association

Volunteers

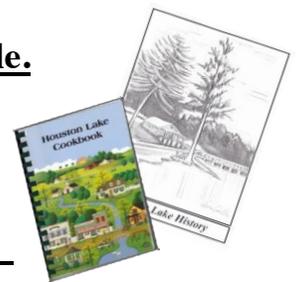
The City of Houston Lake is looking for volunteers for our feral cat population control. This person(s) will be responsible for catching feral cats and having them spayed/neutered then returned to the area. If interested, please contact City Hall for more information.

816.741.0644 Thank You

Houston Lake 62 page History Books & 2nd Edition Cookbooks on sale.

3 = books for \$10.00, 2 = books for \$8.00, 1 = book for \$5.00

All the proceeds will go to the Houston Lake Arts Circle. To purchase your books please call President of the Houston Lake Arts Circle Linda Kramer – 816.225.4110 or Editor Mary Head - 816.741.5639 or email maryjewel40@gmail.com



Advertising at a price you can afford!!!



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Have your ad to me by the 24th for next month issue. For more information call Editor Mary Head (816)741-5639 or email maryjewel40@gmail.com This is the most affordable form of advertising in the Kansas City area. And you support your home town paper.



CITY OFFICIALS
CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE

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

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

Sewer Grinder Pumps
Megan Micek 816-663-0894

City Collector = Jean Anderson
(taxcollector@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 1 No.), Mayor Pro-Tem
Chuck Stone 816-305-3196
(nw2-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 1 No.)
Phil Otte 816-741-5477
(nw1-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderwoman (Ward 2 So.)
Sarah Farcase
(sw1-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Alderman (Ward 2 So.)
Nick Jackalone 816-587-0028
(sw2-alderman@houstonlake.net)

Codes Enforcement Officer
Cathy Grove 913-701-7142
(codesenforcement@houstonlake.net)

Platte County Circuit Court Clerk
Kim Johnson = 816-858-2232

Platte County Sheriff
Non emergency 816-858-3521
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 = Kerry Hallowell
816-695-4100

Vice President = Jeffrey Lister
573-645-7393

Public Relations Officer = Jeffrey Lister
(hoacommunications@houstonlake.net)

Secretary /Treasurer/ Lake Tags = Susan Hodges
816-786-2377 (hodges.susan@outlook.com)

Board Member = Mary Head
816-741-5639 (maryjewel40@gmail.com)

Board Member = Teresa Olson
(teresaaolson@hotmail.com)

Registrar/Editor - Houston Laker = Mary Head
816-741-5639 (editor@houstonlake.net)

Water Quality Officer = Sharron DeLaFuente

Dam/Watershed Officer

Aerator Maintenanc

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

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION BOARD APPLICATION

NAME _____ DATE OF FILING _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

You must be a member in good standing of the Venetian Gardens Homes Association. This means that you must be current on dues payment.

We have two vacancies on the Homes Association Board in the Annual October Meeting. The 2 Board members will be for 2 years.

Anyone interested in becoming a Board Member, please complete the application on this page and return to any Homes Association Board Member by September 15, 2019. Thank you.

AUDITORS NEEDED

Three volunteers are needed to “audit the books” (review the check book and other financial records) for the Venetian Garden Homes Association.

As required by the bylaws, an audit of the books must be completed prior to the Annual Meeting which will be held on October 16, 2019.

It is not an overwhelming task, probably an hour or two.

The Treasurer, Susan Hodges, will meet with the volunteers at City Hall to get this job done.

So, would you like to help the Homes Association? And, if you have done an audit before, you can offer your services again!

Call Susan Hodges 816-786-2377 or email = hodges.susan@outlook.com and offer your services. It would be greatly appreciated.

Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Meeting
Minutes
July 17, 2019

Call to order: Kerry Hallowell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Roll Call: Teresa Olson

Present: Kerry Hallowell, President, Jeff Lister, Vice President, Susan Hodges, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Head, Board Member, Teresa Olson, Board Member

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the June 19, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurers report:

Susan Hodges provided the members with the current cash balance and the collections for the month.

Meeting:

Kerry thanked Teresa Olson and Chuck Stone for the removal of the dead deer from the lake. It was a dreadful smelly project. Missouri Department of Conservation said they would remove the deer but the HOA had to get it out of the water. Kerry also expressed appreciation for the work Jeff Lister, his son Scott, Brendan Brousseau and Teresa Olson provided to move the fence for the dredge project. The project is scheduled to begin next week. Jeff said that the brush removal in the cove was almost done and the memorial on the peninsula had been removed. Jeff is looking into seeing if anyone, like large contracting companies may be interested in getting some free fill dirt from the peninsula next spring. A member requested a copy of the contract with Critchfield. Kerry said the contract was with the attorney and would be provided if the attorney approved it. There were several questions on the construction work which had been discussed in other meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Susan Hodges, Secretary

Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Meeting
Minutes
August 21, 2019

Call to order: Kerry Hallowell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Roll Call: Teresa Olson

Present: Kerry Hallowell, President, Jeff Lister, Vice President, Susan Hodges, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Head, Board Member, Teresa Olson, Board Member

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the July 17, 2019 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurers report:

Susan Hodges provided the members with current financial statements and cash balances. Sue also provided information for upcoming Board openings and the annual election of the Board of Directors. Members who want to be included in the election must submit their Board application to anyone on the Board of Directors by September 15, 2019. The annual election will be in October.

Meeting:

Kerry addressed the fact that the light at the beach is out. It has been out for about two years and has recently become a problem because it invites others to party at the beach area. It is known that recently there have been at least two parties, one of which caused a member to call the Platte County Sheriff at 3 a.m. Jewel and Mary contacted KCPL to repair the light and KCPL. Jewel explained that the light that is there now is mercury vapor, which is old school and it uses more electricity. KCPL will replace the light with a LED light which uses less power, and will maintain the light for a cost of \$11 per month. It does not make sense to do anything other than let KCPL maintain the light. Sue Hodges confirmed that maintenance includes vandalism. Kerry advised the members that the Board had collectively concluded that this is what will be done.

Kerry then updated the members on the dredging project. Kerry met with Scott Critchfield and because the Board got permission for Scott to bring his equipment to the other side of the cove, it has saved him time and expense, so he has agreed to (take out more silt at the peninsula, which has already been done) he will remove more silt in the cove and move the random rock placed in various locations around the lake, to line the cove with the rock and do all the grading and seeding and put down straw at no extra charge.

A member advised the Board that there may be an opportunity to have the construction company that is doing the road construction on Prairie View and 64th to move the silt to the construction site as they are rerouting Prairie View and need fill dirt. Jeff expressed concern that the silt may not be dry enough to remove.

Members asked if the homeowners could remove silt from the peninsula. Jeff cautioned the members that while some dirt could be removed the berm (dirt placed to hold the silt) that the berm was there for a purpose which is to contain the silt. Removing dirt could jeopardize the berm and silt could escape.

Jeff also advised the members that Critchfield is about one third done with the cove. The result is amazing.

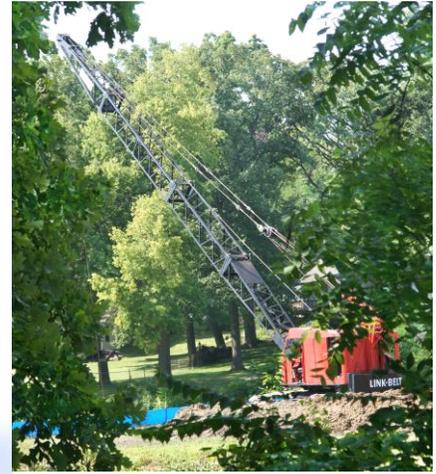
The next topic of discussion was the collection process. There are a few people who never pay any dues. Filing liens works only to a limited extent. When a property sells to a third party the Title Company always requests confirmation that the dues have been paid and if they have not, the outstanding dues are collected in the closing process. Another option is to file suit. The Board is also investigating public disclosure for nonpaying members. Sue Hodges said there are members who diligently make payments on their dues and payment plans are welcome. The Board is more than willing to work with Members to design payment plans.

Kerry plans to investigate grants and other revenue generating avenues. Jeff thanked the members for the positive collaboration. A new member was welcomed and everyone was introduced. Mary Head was congratulated on her civic leadership award from the Missouri Municipal League. Congratulations, Mary and thank you for 40 plus years of service to this community.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Susan Hodges, Secretary



The Lake was so shallow that the geese can walk on the bottom of the lake.



Buckets, Buckets and more Buckets of mud is coming out the lake. July 31, 2019



July 25, 2019, Scott Critchfield started dredging around the north side of the peninsula. THANK YOU to the Lake Officials of Venetian Gardens Homes Association and all the Home Owners of Houston Lake.

Dredging in the cove August 2019



FALL

Dear Houston Lakers:

It's that wonderful time between summer and winter. Time to button up the yard work, clear out the gardens and tighten up the house. It's a busy time for all of us. Houston Lake Code Enforcement just has a few friendly reminders as we put summer away.

Please remember to take your trash cans back to the house after pick-up, this is especially important in the winter so your neighbors and other vehicles have room to get around them on slick streets.

Section 230.030 Collections of Solid Waste

C. Solid waste containers as required by this Chapter for the storage of residential solid waste shall be placed at the curbside for collection but shall not be so placed until after 6:00 PM on the day next preceding the regularly scheduled collection day. Containers shall be removed from the curbside no later than 8:00 PM on the day of collection.

As you clean up your yards for fall, and for the remainder of mowing season, please make sure you are mowing your lot to the street, It is the homeowners responsibility to maintain any and all easements and right of ways.

Section 215.110 Weeds, high grass or other Vegetation

- A. Failure to Keep Weeds, High Grass and Other Vegetation Cut and Removed, A Nuisance, All persons owning or occupying any lot or tract for land in the City shall keep the weeds, high grass or other vegetation growing on such property cut and removed. Whenever such weeds, high grass or other vegetation shall attain the height of eighteen (18) inches, it shall be deemed a public nuisance.

As was discussed in last months Houston Laker, please make sure you have house numbers on your house. This makes it easier for emergency services to find you if you need them. We discussed this at the last City Council meeting, the response from fire and police when asked how they find the proper address when they get a call out for an emergency, "They just have to search for the correct address" Please don't take a chance on them having to search for you when you need them as fast as possible. City Ordinance requires that the house numbers be no less the four inches in height, more if they can not be seen from the street. Code Enforcement staff will begin sending out reminder letters to residents that don't have the proper house identification starting September 1, 2019.

Section 235.070 Exterior Structure

- B. Premises Identification. Buildings shall have address numbers assigned by the City placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of four (4) inches high with a minimum stroke width of one-half (0.5) inch.

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)

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.

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 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.

Note: Please submit all applications for burn permit or building permit to City Hall 10 days prior to the meeting for consideration. Those applications not received 10 days prior to a meeting will not be considered until the following months City Council Meeting. Applications can be deposited in the mail box at the front of the building. Thank you for your consideration.

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.

City Council Meeting
July 08, 2019
City Hall – 5417 NW Adrian Houston Lake, MO 64151

The Council of the City of Houston Lake met in regular session on July 08, 2019 at 7:39pm at City Hall – 5417 NW Adrian Ave Houston Lake, MO 64151.

Opening Session: Mayor Freese called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

The following members were present: Alderman Nick Jackalone, Alderman Phil Otte, Alderman Chuck Stone, Alderman Sarah Farsace Mayor Pam Freese

Public Discussion – None

Minutes 06.10.2019

Motion to approve minutes with edits to spelling and dates 06.10.2019 made by Alderman Otte, Second by Alderman Stone. Yes: Jackalone, Otte, Stone, Fasace No: None Motion carries.

Building /Burning Permits – None

Note: Please submit all applications for burn permit or building permit to City Hall 10 days prior to the meeting for consideration. Those applications not received 10 days prior to a meeting will not be considered until the following months City Council Meeting. Applications can be deposited in the mailbox at the front of the building.

Treasures Report

Motion to approve treasures report for July 08, 2019 made by Alderman Stone, second by Alderman Otte.

Yes: Stone, Farsace, Otte, Jackalone

No: None

Motion carries

All CD's for Houston Lake should be updated to reflect Pam Freese, Nick Jackalone and Chuck Stone as the authorized parties names.

Sewer Fund CD that will mature on 07/31/19 should be closed and reopened in a 15 month term CD with a better interest rate.

Collectors Report

City Collectors report is included with the official packet

County Collectors report is included with the official packet

Paybills – Resolution 07.08.2019

Amendment - \$178.51 – Citicard payment made, bill received after report was written, but will be included with this month's paybills.

Motion to approve Resolution 07.08.2019 made by Alderman Stone, second by Alderman Farsace

Yes: Otte, Jackalone, Stone, Farsace

Motion carries

City Council Meeting
July 08, 2019
City Hall – 5417 NW Adrian Houston Lake, MO 64151

Emergency Management

Fire Department – Jeff Taylor –No Report available – Fire Department not available

Police Department – Report Included with the official packet – A representative of the sheriff's department was present.

Codes Report – Codes officer gave presentation; report is included in the official packet.

All houses are required by ordinance to have the house numbers clearly visible, in a contrasting color to their house color and at least 4" in height. This is important for emergency services and codes staff will be working to ensure this in the coming months.

Venetian Garden Homes Association Report –We will start dredging July 22nd, project will last 40 days.

Old Business

- Tree Trimming for Emergency vehicles – we received 2 responses for bids. We had been approved up to \$3,000. Urban Tree came back at \$1,100, Whitley Tree service came back at \$1,300. We will proceed with Urban Tree to work on the tree clearance for the emergency vehicles. We will also ask them to take care of the tree pile.

New Business

- Trash container at Mayors Park burned down over 4th of July. Mayor Freese will be working on a replacement can, Al Horriner will remove it.

Alderman Otte makes a motion that we replace the trashcan, Alderman Farsace second
Yes: Jackalone, Otte, Stone, Farsace No: None Motion Carries

Alderman Reports

Alderman Jackalone – Thank you to Al Horriner for his hard work.

Alderman Farsace –No Report

Alderman Otte – Thank you to Al for his work

Alderman Stone – Has been helping with Real Estate research, has sent some information out and has noticed the planning and zoning section of our website needs some cleaning.

Mayors Report

She has had some family issues. Thank you to Alderman Stone for his stepping in her place.

Thursday July 11th – 15th Mayor Freese will be out of town, Alderman Stone will be acting in her place as Mayor Pro Tem.

We will have our Tax Levy meeting on Monday August 12th 2019 at 7:15pm

Adjournment -

Alderman Otte motioned to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Stone second.

Yes: Jackalone, Stone, Otte, Farsace. Motion Carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm by Mayor Freese.

Next Meeting will be held Monday August 12, 2019 at 7:30pm

Houston Lake Holistic Life

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Beans Three ways

1 pound of dried Canellini Beans

8 cups vegetable stock

8 cloves garlic, coarse chopped

3-4 sprigs rosemary

2 2 bay leaves

2 2 dried red chiles

1/2 teaspoon sea salt

1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper

Soak beans overnight. Drain.

Bring all ingredients to a boil over high heat.

Reduce heat to a simmer, cover, simmer until

beans are tender. About an hour.

Check the liquid level during simmering to assure the beans are always submerged.

Serve hot with some of the liquid. Refrigerate in liquid.

Next day. Served cold. Strained. Add your favorite salad dressing with beans and a salad and/or veggies.

Blend remaining beans in enough liquid to make a smooth dip or spread. Season to taste!

You can use canned white beans to speed things up. Make sure you rinse thoroughly. You will not need as much vegetable stock nor cooking time.

You may choose dried herbs and spices, not quite so much quantity. You can always add more later.

Breathwork

Separating Heaven and Earth

Stand with your feet hip distance apart

Slightly bend your knees

Press your right palm to the Heavens

Press your left palm to the Earth

Look up at the back of your right hand

Exhale as you press your palms as far up and down as you can

Return to a neutral stance

Repeat with left palm to Heaven

Right palm to Earth with a big Exhale

Repeat 7 times

This breathing opens the space between your organs

And lengthens your muscles along the sides

Relaxes the muscles in your neck

Future additions will be a recipe, an exercise and a healthy hint for the month.

VibraPro

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Gwyneth Jones. HHP

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*Best wishes!
Marlene*