

2020 FALL



NEWSLETTER



HOME. SWEET. HOME.

A NEWSLETTER FOR
THE RESIDENTS
OF VENETIAN ESTATES

THE Venetian Estates MAINSAIL

2021 Annual Assessments

The 2021 annual assessments invoice will be sent out soon. Annual assessments are due on January 1, 2021. They are considered late after January 31, 2021 with all past due accounts assessed a late fee of \$10.00 along with a monthly collection fee of \$15.00 until paid in full.

Your assessments are what allow your Board of Directors to maintain your community. The assessments cover all operational costs of the Association.

PAST DUE BALANCES: If owners are experiencing difficulties related to the pandemic, a request can be submitted for payment deferment and/or extended payment plans to the Board for review.

Please contact Pennie Mancuso in our accounting department at MASC Austin Properties, Inc. via phone at (713) 776-1771 or via email pmancuso@mascapi.com to make the necessary payment arrangements if you have a past due balance.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tarn Springbob

I hope everyone in the neighborhood continues to stay healthy and safe. Due to the ongoing COVID issues as well as recommendations by our federal, state and local officials, Venetian Estates has cancelled our annual October Wine and Cheese and our annual Christmas Party. The annual Christmas Light Contest however...is STILL ON! So decorate those homes. Prizes will be awarded.

2020 has been an exceptional challenge for all of us, but as we come to the end of this year, as well as my tenure as President of VEPOA, I wanted to personally thank all of the Board members and neighborhood volunteers for their help in making this a most enjoyable experience for me. You guys do a great job sharing your time, energy and talent. It has been an honor to serve you.

Thank you! Happy holidays! Warmest regards and best wishes to all!

Lakeside Inspection

Usually we conduct lakeside inspections quarterly. Due to the coronavirus, our management company has not been able to perform one in 2020. Most violations in the past were from weeds growing through bulkheads, not trimming trees and shrubs and not maintaining boats. We are starting to see many of those problems while leisurely boating around the lake. We would appreciate Lake Venice residents to check their bulkheads for vegetation, trim tree limbs hanging less than 12 feet over the lake, trim vegetation that may impede your neighbor's view of the lake, and keep your boats clean and maintained. Also remember when boating after dark you are required to have running lights on your boat. Running lights are generally the red/green light on the pole or the one mounted on the bow (front) of your boat. Thank you and stay safe.

Care Committee: Are you in need of assistance? maybe a caring meal, or a help assistance with a small item around your home? Please reach out to Ruth Jungman, rjungman919@gmail.com / 713-962-0114, and we can match you with homeowners who are able to cook an extra meal or assist you in some way. If you are a current homeowner and you would like to assist a VE family with providing a meal, or assist a neighbor with small things around their home, please let me know. I am starting a new list of people who can assist others. Please let me know what you are willing and able to do.... like provide a meal, change a bulb, or assist a neighbor taking the trash can in or out to the street. --Ruth Jungman, (Sorrento)



NEW HOMEOWNER SPOTLIGHT - MEET THE BECKERS

Welcome to Amy and Gary Becker, who just built a new home on Lombardy (where the street curves). The Beckers are both native Houstonians—Amy has been actively involved in Fort Bend County since 1992 and raised her four children here. Gary's family, having been in the live entertainment business for over 5 decades, partnered with the City of Sugar Land to develop and manage the Smart Financial Centre. Enjoying their life as a blended family, they have six grown kids between them. The Beckers are excited to finally be in their new home and look forward to meeting their new Venetian neighbors!



The Beckers are our newest homeowners and the first to be featured in our community newsletter. Our goal is to highlight many more residents in the future, both new ones and those who have been here for many years. If you would like to be featured, please email christenj@johnsondev.com. Our community is made up of very special people and we think this might be a great way for neighbors to get to know other neighbors just a little more personally!

FLOCK SAFETY CAMERAS

Venetian Estates has recently partnered with Flock Safety, a national neighborhood security provider that specializes in community safety through the use of license plate reading cameras that have both night and day-time capability. License plates are the #1 piece of evidence that police request in the case of criminal activity such as home and car break-ins.

If you are the victim of a crime in the neighborhood, please report it first to the police department. Then send an email to any member of our Board of Directors and we can help provide footage or provide access to you or the detective assigned to the case. The footage and data that we collect is automatically deleted after 30 days, so it is important that you notify both of us as soon as possible so that we can ensure that all recordings are kept intact for use in any investigation or future prosecution.

We are also encouraging our residents to register and log your vehicles' license plates. By registering these "safe" plates we will know that your vehicle belongs in the neighborhood when sorting through the footage. The link to the secure Safelist site is: <https://admin.flocksafety.com/register/resident/6da7e9e1-4551-4004-9457-c138783d424e>

Despite this technology, it is just a camera. The #1 way to deter crime is a responsibility we each own individually: lock your doors, keep your valuables out of sight and set your alarms.

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

Lots of things have been different this year, and Halloween in Venetian is no exception. In order to do our part in social distancing, we sadly have made the decision to forego the hayride for the kids. Instead, this year, we are selecting streets and families may visit either on foot or via golf carts.

The streets selected for this year include:

- San Marino
- Genova
- Gondola
- Salerno
- Santa Maria
- St Marks
- Sorrento



Please note, if you prefer not to have trick-or-treaters, we simply ask that you please turn your porchlights off. This will let people know not to visit your home. Another alternative is you may set out a table or basket with candy.

We know many residents love our annual hayride tradition and we join you in hoping it will return next year!



CHRISTMAS LIGHT CONTEST

Each year, our community shines with many homes adorned with lights and decorations. And this year seems particularly good to get into the holiday spirit!

During the week of December 14, homes will be judged for the top three most festive decorations—two front yards (entire community) and one back yard (Lake Venice) homeowner. Winners will receive a \$100 gift card to Home Depot.

Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

The role of ACC is to protect the integrity of neighborhood property values by monitoring and ensuring all exterior changes and improvements to your property are within the VE Deed Restrictions and ACC Guidelines. All exterior work on your property is reviewed by the ACC. Applications, guidelines and rules are found on the VE website www.venetianestates.org. Under Documents, is a link to the Architectural Control Requirements. Please take a look at the Table of Contents for information concerning what must be reviewed by the ACC.

Also under Documents, is Applications and Forms, which includes links for various applications. With all the new homes under construction, please look carefully at the Application for New Home Construction, Home Additions, Remodels and Pools for requirements for drainage. This is of utmost importance because the City and FEMA requires the finished floor elevation of new construction to be 2' above base flood elevation.

Please Help us Welcome New Homeowners to Venetian!

Happy Autumn Venetian Estates Neighbors and Friends!

With the recent change in leadership, I am honored to follow in the footsteps of Ms. Sue Frewin in leading the Welcoming and Care Committee. She did an amazing job and I have big shoes to fill. The Welcoming and Caring Committee makes and delivers welcome baskets to new residents, provides caring meals to sick residents or residents with a death in the family.

Are you a current homeowner that would like to assist a VE neighbor by providing a meal or assisting with small things around their home? If so, please contact me. We are compiling a list of people who are willing and able to assist others. When you reach out, please indicate what type of help you are offering; providing a meal, changing light bulbs, taking the rubbish can to the curb & back, etc.

Please reach out to me, Ruth Jungman, and the Welcoming and Caring Committee members if you know of someone we can care for or welcome. If you are in need of a caring meal or assistance with a small item at your home, please reach out to me and the Committee will match you with homeowners that are able to cook an extra meal or assist you in some way.

--Ruth Jungman, (Sorrento) rjungman919@gmail.com / 713-962-0114

Please join me in giving a warm welcome to our most recent residents to Venetian Estates!

214 Lombardy - Jennifer and Rick McKellop

106 Capri – Andrew and Katie Faught

303 Savoy – Hank Nguyen

115 Capri – Kerigan Pike

607 Salerno – Jon and Lee Ann Anderson

606 Salerno – Susan Howell Brannan

415 Lombardy – Amy and Gary Becker



And a hearty 'Welcome Back' to homeowners who either transferred streets or returned back to the neighborhood. We agree it's hard to leave Venetian!

114 Capri – Ryan and Laura McGowen (moved from Sorrento)

907 Genova – Kristin and Jeffrey Johnston (moved from Savoy)

403 Savoy—Lori and Tom Shirley (previously lived on Savoy)

Lake Venice Water Quality and Fish Report

We continue to have our water tested monthly for harmful content and we will notify the homeowners if there is a concern. We are required to get our replenishment water from Lake Eldridge due to SL subsidence requirements. Our water source has extreme sediment; however, we have recently placed our pumps within a concrete vault to minimize sucking mud from the bottom. Another board was recently installed at the dam to allow the lake to hold a few more inches of water during heavy rains and lessen the amount of future pumping. We introduced aquatic vegetation into the lake this year to help with the water filtration and fish habitat. This experiment will be expanded in 2021. We routinely dye the lake quarterly, or as needed, for aesthetic purposes. To enhance the fish quality, we introduced controlled fish feeding in the lake this year to produce higher quality, quicker growing fish. We are performing a fish survey in mid-October to assess the quantity and quality of fish. We will also take the opportunity to remove some unwanted fish (carp, gar, buffalo, and catfish). We have too many catfish, so please do not return them to the lake. As homeowners, you can help the lake quality by making sure that your yard debris does not enter the lake. Also, trim overhanging limbs lower than 12' above the water. Larger limbs can be placed under the docks to promote fish habitat. Keep your bulkheads clear of vegetation.

In Memoriam

During 2020, our community has mourned the loss of some very special residents:

Beth Agar of Piedmont passed away on August 12, 2020. She lived most of her adult life overseas in Germany, and experienced many wonderful things throughout her time in Europe. She returned to the states teaching multi-levels of art and AP Art History at Hightower High School. Art in all of its forms was Beth's passion.

Sally Rachuig Kelly of Salerno, a long-time resident of Venetian, passed away on Saturday, August 15, 2020. Her family moved to Sugar Land in 1932; Sally graduated from Sugar Land High School in 1949. She married Charles Kelly, Jr. in 1949 and they made their home in Sugar Land through their married life and Sally's widowhood after Charles died in 1990. Sally loved living in Sugar Land and enjoyed close friendships with many long-time residents.



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GARAGE SALES

For anyone hosting a garage or estate sale in the future, we have a new community policy that cones must be put out on one side of the street in front of the home, so traffic flow is not impeded. Cones are available by contacting either Leticia Gomez at Austin Properties at lgomez@mascap.com or Pat Lowrie at pblowrie@yahoo.com. A \$50 deposit must be provided in the form of a check, which will be returned once the cones are returned.



DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR TOWNSQ!

MASC Austin Properties, Inc. is excited to announce the launch of TownSq — a new, all-in-one mobile app designed to help you connect, collaborate and stay up-to-date with your association — any time, on any device. Manage your account and access the resources you need when you need them.



Download the app and register to:

- Easily communicate with your management team
- Manage your account and pay online
- Get up-to-date news and alerts
- Request and review status of service inquiries
- Engage with one another
- Access important association documents
- And more!

To register your account, please log onto www.townsq.io, use your account ID (located on the mailing label as shown) and the association zip code (77498).

Set your password and account preferences and you will then be ready to start experiencing community your way with TownSq. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this new process as we are excited to offer these new services to your community.

MUSCOVY DUCK PROBLEM

The Muscovy duck population in Venetian Estates seems to have exploded over the past year. From May to November, Muscovy ducks will lay 10 to 20 eggs per clutch. They are aggressive and because Muscovys are non-native, they will displace our native mallards and wood ducks from their habitat. They spend most of their time on the prowl looking for free handouts, digging in yards, and defecating virtually everywhere.

We are encouraging our residents to take efforts to reduce the Muscovy population. For your efforts you will have much peace and quiet and lawns and decks free of duck droppings.

Here are a few tips for controlling these bothersome birds on your property:

- Don't feed them. Muscovys are a lot like unwanted relatives. Give them a free handout and you'll never get rid of them.
- Remove all but one egg from the nest (it's the neatly arranged pile of sticks on your property) and dispose of them: Freeze the eggs so they don't continue to develop in the sun (or the garbage can). Don't throw them in canals and lakes because they pollute the water, but keep one egg in the nest so nature can continue its course.
- Keep trash bags away from areas where the ducks congregate. They open the bags in search of food.
- If you see a mother with a large group of small hatchlings, encourage the whole brood into the lake as quickly as you can. The turtles and catfish will take care of a lot of those ducklings. Nature will do what it does.