

WILDWOOD LAKES BREEZE

2020 Quarter 4 Issue



2020 CALENDAR

2021 Board Meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month with the exception of October and December.

Christmas Party:

CANCELLED. We will schedule a Zoom HOA business meeting on December 11th.

All Member Business Meeting: Dec 11th (more information and the Zoom link forthcoming)



If you're reading this newsletter, you're probably *not* the one flying down our neighborhood streets ridiculously fast... but please remind visitors and anyone you know with a lead foot to please **sloooooow down.**

Also – if you know or see anyone coming off the trail with a dirt bike, please ask them to stay on the trail.

Contact us at:
WildwoodLakeHOA@gmail.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! We hope everyone was still able to enjoy family and friends and good food. It's fun to watch the Christmas lights start to go up in the neighborhood – the holiday cheer is refreshing as the year continues to be challenging.

Current Priority – Dam Face - UPDATE:

Status: We are moving forward with the approved dam repairs – the contract has been signed and the down payment made - thank you for your support of this important project. We hope to see the work get started before the year is out, but it depends on weather and the contractor's schedule. We will pay the remainder of the amount once the work is complete. This major expense will nearly deplete our savings for the next couple of years. Several home owners have made donations towards the repair costs, which are welcome and will be greatly appreciated! (Donations can be included with your dues payment). We would also like to recognize the folks that are helping with donations on our website, please let us know if you would prefer to stay anonymous.

REMINDERS AND UPDATES:

- *A reminder* to regularly check out the website for any news and announcements: <http://www.wildwoodlakehoa.com/>.
- *Holiday Party:* has unfortunately been cancelled. We will have an **all-member Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm, Friday December 11th**. We will both email a link out to all members we have email addresses for, as well as post the Zoom link on the website the day of the meeting. We're hoping to do something creative and fun with the meeting, so stay tuned!
- *2021 Dues & Cards:* Dues letters and membership cards will be sent out by the end of the year – dues need to be paid before **Feb 11th**. However, if you can pay early or pay extra to help with dam, that would be amazing!
- *Board Election:* we will need to vote on 2 open Board positions at the all-member meeting on December 11th. The VP role is open as well 1 director slot. Thank you for those that have expressed interest! If you would like to take a turn serving on the Board and offer up your name as a candidate, please email Rob at the HOA email address. It would be nice if we could have directors from both sides of the lake.
- *New Members:* we've had several more houses sell in the recent months, please take time to introduce yourself to new neighbors. Thanks again to Al & Sharon for ensuring each new neighbor receives a welcome packet!



Coming soon in 2021!

UPDATE ON THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL:

Here's what's reported on the Jackson Co website:

The website continues to say that phase 2 of the Rock Island trail is still on schedule to be completed in early 2021 – it sure seems like it's taking forever! Here's an update from their website:

The new section of the trail will include trailheads at Truman Sports Complex, Downtown Raytown and Woodson Road. There will also be an unofficial trailhead at the Raytown Chamber of Commerce which was built by the Chamber. Trailheads will include historical signage to tell the story of the old railroad and its impact on the community. The Raytown trailhead will also have an old "bumping post", a relic left behind by the old railroad.

New pedestrian bridges will be placed from the sports complex to 63rd Street. The old bridges will be available to Kansas City Area Transportation Authority for their transit project. Existing bridges will be used south of 63rd with the exception of the Wildwood Bridge, because that bridge has deteriorated beyond a useful life.

The trail will be off of the railbed from the sports complex to Woodson by at least 25 feet and mainly on the railbed south of Woodson. This is due to KCATA's anticipated transit project.

The 6.4 mile first phase of the trail was completed in June 2019. It starts at Brickyard Road and travels south through Lee's Summit to Jefferson Street. When phase two is finished it will complete the 13.5 mile trail.

Rock Island Project Manager Matt Davis said the long term goal is to connect the Rock Island Trail to the 240 mile long Katy trail.

There is an eight mile gap between the two trails he said. "We have funding for an additional 1.3 miles that will be constructed during 2021-2022. We will apply for federal funding for 2023-2024, that would get us another 1.5 miles and into Greenwood. We will likely continue to take this phased, multi-year approach as funding is our biggest challenge."

NEED REINFORCEMENTS IN GETTING OUR STREETLIGHT FIXED AT THE DAM

Rob has made multiple calls to Evergy to get this light fixed – we have yet to have a response from them. They have even told us it's our property and our responsibility to fix, but it has a "KCP&L" number on the pole.

It would help greatly if everyone could make a call to Evergy and file a request for this light to be fixed. It's an intermittent issue – sometimes it works, sometimes it flickers, and sometimes it shuts off.

Here's the pole number: #906339

BIG THANKS TO JERRY KINMAN!

Jerry has resigned from the WLHOA Board. He served as Board VP and has been an invaluable resource of knowledge and history for the Board. He and his wife have moved to be closer to kids and grandkids.

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

Let us know if you'd like to help out with such things as:

- Planning HOA gatherings
- We need 2 more HOA Directors
- Website maintenance
- Common areas maintenance
- OTHER IDEAS??? Email us!

This newsletter content has been approved by the WLHOA Board.

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NATURE HIGHLIGHT – “POKEBERRIES”

Thank you to Breeze contributor!!! Marla Bare



Pokeberries are found in grape-like clusters on tall perennials with purple-red stems. Eating several berries can cause pain, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

As I was walking along the new (not quite finished) trail, I noticed a number of ripe pokeberries. The bushes pop up in my garden bed regularly. I remember my father (a physician) telling a neighbor that they were poisonous, causing internal bleeding, but her child probably wasn't hurt if he only ate a few.

Phytolacca americana, also known as American pokeweed, poke sallet, or dragonberries is a native poisonous perennial bush growing up to 8 foot high. It can be identified by its green to red-purple stems and a thick white taproot. The flowers are green to white, followed by purple-black berries which are a good food source for songbirds but are toxic to dogs, humans and horses. Opossums, racoons and foxes may be tolerant of the toxins. The seeds have long viability, able to germinate after many years in the soil. Pokeweed has been grown as an ornamental plant in wildlife gardens, mainly for its attractive berries and because it does draw the berry eating songbirds.

In the past, pokeweed was sometimes used in herbal remedies or to make a pink dye from the juice of the berries. Despite its toxicity, Poke is also a traditional southern Appalachian food with Poke Salad even celebrated in town festivals. The leaves and stems of young plants can be eaten, but must be cooked by boiling two or more times with the water drained and replaced each time. The leaves taste similar to spinach; the stems, similar to asparagus. The roots cannot be made edible.

All parts of the plant can be toxic and pose risks to human and mammalian health. Toxins are found in highest concentration in the rootstock, then leaves and stems, then the ripe fruit. The plant generally gets more toxic with maturity, with the exception of the berries, which are dangerous even while green. Since the juice of pokeweed can be absorbed through the skin, contact of plant parts with bare skin should be avoided. If you want to eliminate the plant in your garden, it's easier to pull it up when it's young and be sure to dig up as much of the long taproot as you can, and use gloves...