

HOUSTON LAKER

SINCE MARCH 1957 - EDITION #66

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

City Council meets at city hall & virtually on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. The next meeting is February 12, 2024. Contact City Clerk for more information.

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOC

Venetian Gardens Homes Association will meet at city hall & virtually on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00pm. Please contact Frank Wilson for more information.

LIFE ON THE LAKE

Did you hear the "BANGS"? VGHA and residents recently launched bangers and screechers to scare off interloper geese.



WINTER ON THE LAKE

PHOTO CREDIT WENDY THOMPSON

Thank you to Sydney and Maddox Strobbe for reminding us that winter can be a great time of year. Your snowman is bringing many smiles to the residents of Houston Lake.

If you haven't enjoyed their snowman yet, take a walk around to the dam. There will be a few afternoons coming up that will be warmer to enjoy a walk.

Find the things and make the moments that bring you smile!

ARTS CIRCLE

Houston Lake Art Circle members will be at City Hall February 10, 1-4 pm to collect art works for the next display. Please bring your works ready to display. The entry forms will be available at that time for you to complete so we can make the labels. Works will be displayed until August 11. Those who currently have work on display, please come at that time to collect your work. Hoping to see some wonderful works again!

CAUTION: WINTER LAKE WARNING

The use of Houston Lake is at Your Own Risk

Just as in the summer and swimming, skating, playing, just being on the lake frozen or not is at your own risk.

Please use caution with your family, guests and pets if you decide to go on the lake.

If you see someone or an animal in danger on the lake this winter Call 911

Expenses for emergency calls and rescues are at the homeowners personal expense. Venetian Gardens Homes Association and the City of Houston Lake are not to held responsible.



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Over the past six months, Alderman Walker-Robin has strived to keep our residents informed on how the city council and I work together, or separately, to get things accomplished. Walker-Robin has done this through the website and questions at city council meetings.

Because of procedural differences between the Alderman and myself, a series of questions have not been addressed publicly.

A City Council meeting is for doing the city's business, not for a press conference. I have considered attending a listening session hosted by Walker-Robin. Unfortunately, I have other commitments during that time slot.

I will hold a Mayor's Question and Answer session that is open to the public. It will be at the City Hall quarterly on the 19th of the month at 7:30 p.m. So, the first one will be Friday the 19th of January 2024. The following meetings will be on the first month of each quarter.

There is no agenda for this first meeting, but I will be opening it with some statements about the curb height at the city hall parking lot, The status of recent records requests, contract questions, and the recent permit application by the Venetian Garden's Homes association.

It will also be available through Google Meet and an audio recording will be provided for those who can't attend. Please email mayor@houstonlake.gov for an invitation to the virtual meeting.

Chuck Stone
Mayor, Houston Lake, Missouri

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AROUND TOWN

The city of Riverside will be breaking ground on a new LiveNation outdoor amphitheater across from the Kansas City Current Soccer training facility. This amphitheater is 15,000 seats and expected to open within two years. The site is near I-635 and Horizon Parkway.

Mayor Kathy Rose was recently on KSHB 41 news to discuss why Riverside was a great location. The facility will also include 5,000 parking spaces and 200 spaces for rideshare companies.

For more information contact the City of Riverside at Riverside City Hall
2950 NW Vivion Road
Riverside, MO 64150
Phone: (816) 741-3993

UTILITY TAX

SUBMITTED BY CHUCK STONE

Your utility bill has a franchise fee. Some cell phone providers call it a city license fee. Utility companies pass a utility tax on to the consumer.

In return for collecting taxes from your electric, gas, cable, and phone company, Houston Lake allows them to use public land to deliver services and must allow workers access to the public land.

Sometimes, new residents are not aware that Houston Lake is an independent municipality with its own mayor and city council form of government. They might accept a suggestion to use Kansas City as their service address.

I was recently surprised to see that a utility company had my address listed as Kansas City. When I went to update it, a pop-up appeared suggesting a "preferred" address of Kansas City. I had to click on the Houston Lake option that I entered originally.

Please update your utility, phone, and internet provider sites to show Houston Lake as the service address so the revenue goes to your local community.

LAKER CORRECTIONS - PREVIOUS ISSUES

Thank you to the residents who let us know when an error occurs. If you see an error in the Laker, please email editor.houstonlaker@gmail.com and let us know.

January corrections in the print version needed to be made to the City Council meeting date, a recycling pick up date and the city minutes were folded incorrectly so that it seemed they were not in order. Corrections were made prior to uploading the online version.

UN-CLASSIFIED ADS

Full Page \$20.00

1/2 Page \$10.00

1/4 Page \$5.00

1/8 Page \$2.50

Pricing is per month & includes a listing on the city website houstonlake.gov

To place an ad, email editor.houstonlaker@gmail.com

HOUSTON LAKE HISTORY BOOK

65 pages of the history of Houston Lake! \$5 each. Contact Mary Head at maryjewel40@gmail.com

HOUSTON LAKE COOKBOOK

2nd Edition of the City Cookbook is available for \$3. Limited number of copies, contact Mary Head at maryjewel40@gmail.com

FREE BOOK LIBRARY

Do you have books you would like to donate to the Library at City Hall? The Library is in need of repair or replacement. If you're handy at fixing things and want to give it a go...contact cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

POLITICS & ELECTIONS

February 20, 2024 is the deadline for Absentee voting for the April 2, 2024 Election. Registration opens at 8:00am

March 6, 2024n is the Voter Registration deadline for the April 2, 2024 General Municipal Election.

Information is included as an insert in this edition.

PARK HILL SCHOOLS

Stay up to date on closures and events by going to www.parkhill.k12.mo.us

CITY FINANCES

By ordinance, the City of Houston Lake will publish a Financial Statement after the 6 month timeframe of the current fiscal year. The fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30th. A 2023-24 Financial Statement is included as an addition to this issue.

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOC

The Homes Association dues statements were mailed Jan. 31, 2024. Annual dues are \$450.00; due March 1, 2024, becoming delinquent March 2, 2024.

Past due amounts are charged a 10% penalty each year. Payments can be mailed to City Hall or delivered to City Hall. If mailed please mail it to: Venetian Gardens Homes Association, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, Mo. 64151. If delivered, please put your payment in the HOA mailbox on the front porch of city hall. If you have any questions....

Treasurer Susan Hodges 816.786.2377 or email her at hodges.susan@outlook.com



PHOTO CREDIT HOUSTON LAKE COMMUNITY GARDEN FACEBOOK PAGE

COMMUNITY GARDEN LET'S GET STARTED!

Please join us for our first 2024 Houston Lake Community Garden meeting, fundraiser and pizza luncheon on Saturday, February 3rd at city hall from 12pm to 2pm

Help us plan our next garden and share gardening and container gardening information. Now is the time to think about what veggies we want and what seed to start early. The garden is in need of some fence repairs along with some new soil. Lots to discuss.

Please RSVP to Marsha Duncan and let her know what kind of pizza you like. 816-419-5051 or email mduncannkc@aol.com



Riverside Survival Supply:

2412 NW Vivion Road Riverside, MO 64150
 (816) 584-8500
 RiversideSurvival.com

Store Hours:

Tuesday-
 Saturday
 10:00-18:00
 Closed Sundays
 & Mondays

- Camping Gear
- Survival Gear
- Long-term Food Storage
- Fire-starting
- Water Purification
- Ammo

- First Aid
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Knives
- Security Gear
- Resource Books

Riverside Survival Supply was started in 2014 by Rick Hedgecock and Brenda Martin. November 2022, the store was passed onto a new family of outdoorsmen and adventurers. Today, it continues to be ran by outdoor enthusiast, preppers, survivalist, and adventurers.

February Calendar Of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 12:00-Map Reading & Navigation Class
4	5	6	7 Average Joe Wednesday: 10% Off All Purchases!	8	9	10 18:30-Game Night
11	12	13	14 Average Joe Wednesday: 10% Off All Purchases!	15	16	17 RK Gun Show: KC Expo Center 18:30-Movie Night
18 RK Gun Show: KC Expo Center	19	20	21 Average Joe Wednesday: 10% Off All Purchases!	22	23 Midwest Bushcraft Camp-----	24 11:00-Prepper Meetup
25 ----->	26	27	28 Average Joe Wednesday: 10% Off All Purchases!	29		



Bring This Coupon In-Store for **10% Off** any purchase!

Exp.: 3/1/2024

10% Off Everyday

- Military
- First Responders
- Veterans
- UAW Ford

Financial Statement
City of Houston Lake
As of December 31, 2023

Income - Period Covered July 1 - December 31, 2023

General Fund	38,449.63	
Road Fund	6,289.22	
Grinder Pump Fund	127.25	
Fire Protection Fund	190.60	
Total		\$ 45,056.70

Expenses - Period Covered July 1 - December 31, 2023

General Fund	47,720.48	
Road Fund	10,988.11	
Grinder Pump Fund	1,838.49	
Fire Protection Fund	7,500.00	
Total		\$ 68,047.08

Total Funds as of December 31, 2023

General Fund		
Road Fund	136,281.2	
Grinder Pump Fund	5	
Fire Protection Fund	18,957.06	
Municipal Court Account	25,621.10	
Municipal Court Bond Account	35,591.44	
Transportation Sales Tax Receipts	1,468.01	
General Fund CD	519.75	
General Fund CD	15,612.35	
Sewer Fund CD	24,475.71	
Sewer Fund CD	27,134.02	
Mill and Overlay CD	5,159.94	
Total	10,670.14	\$ 318,055.08
	16,564.31	

2024 TRASH & RECYCLING DATES

City trash and recycling services are handled by Republic Services. For assistance with your receptacles, issues with pick-up or questions about large items contact customer service at 816-254-1470 or RepublicServices.com.

Trash is picked up every Wednesday. Receptacles need to be at the curb/edge of street by 6am. Leave room for the arm of the truck to pick up and return the receptacles without causing damage to vehicles, fences, etc.

2024 Recycling Dates (2nd Wednesday):

January 10
February 14
March 13
April 10
May 8
June 12
July 10
August 14
September 11
October 9
November 13
December 11

2024 Holidays:

January 1st New Years Day - Pick up changed to Thursday January 4th

May 27th Memorial Day - Pick up changed to Thursday May 30th

July 4th Independence Day - No Change pick up will be on Wednesday July 3rd

September 2nd Labor Day - Pick up changed to Thursday September 5th

November 28th Thanksgiving - No Change pick up will be on Wednesday November 27th

December 25th Christmas - Pick up changed to Thursday December 26th

EMERGENCY -

In case of a Police, Fire or Medical Emergency - Dial 911

Platte County Sheriff Non-Emergency & Animal Control
816-858-3521

Riverside Fire Department Non-Emergency
816-372-9024

Grinder Pump Alarm or Backup
Text 816-305-3196 with Name & Address

HOA Officers -

President Pam Freese 816-726-4455
venetian.gardens.homes.assoc@gmail.com

Vice President Wendy Thompson 816-225-1018

Secretary Frank Wilson 509-939-6811
lmua62@gmail.com

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

Board Member at Large Mary Head 816-741-5639
maryjewel40@gmail.com

City Officials -

Mayor Chuck Stone 816-305-3196
Mayor@houstonlake.gov

City Clerk Open Position
cityclerk@houstonake.gov

South Ward Alderwomen

Ashley Fuglestad
sw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Sarah Farsace 816-863-2412
sw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

North Ward Alderwomen

Teena Walker-Robin 816-769-6082
nw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Annemarie Murphy 913-222-4705
nw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Codes Enforcement Open Position
codesenforcement@houstonlake.gov

As most of the HOA Officers and City Officials have full-time jobs as well, phone calls may not be answered or returned as quickly as a text or email.

City Hall is open during meetings, Listening Sessions, events and by appointment.

THE WORKS by MARLENE

a licensed Style Salon

816-587-1550

by appointment only

In Houston Lake!

Over 35 years of experience

Convenient hours

Haircuts Uniquely for You

Specializing in Haircolor

Color Correction

Grey Coverage

Enhancing the Grey

Brow Shaping

Best wishes to you,
Marlene

To apply for absentee ballot: print this application form, complete and mail to Platte County Board of Elections, PO Box 560, Platte City, MO 64079 or FAX to 816-858-3387 or e-mail to platte@sos.mo.gov

REQUEST FOR PLATTE COUNTY ABSENTEE BALLOT

I, _____, do hereby request an absentee ballot for the _____ (date) Election.

For identification purposes, the last four digits of my social security number are _____.

If the election is a primary election, please print the name of the political party ballot you wish to receive _____.

NOTE: If you registered by mail or online, and this is your first time voting you must provide a copy of one of the following: nonexpired Missouri driver's license; Nonexpired or nonexpiring Missouri nondriver's license; a document issued by the United States or State of Missouri which contains the name matching the most recent signature on voter record and shows a photograph of the voter, and includes an expiration date and is not expired, or, if expired, the document expired after the date of the most recent general election; or any id with a photograph issued by MO National Guard, the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Space Force, or the US Dept of Veteran Affairs to a member or former member of the MO National Guard, the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Space Force, and that this does not have an expiration date.

Reason for requesting an absentee ballot:

_____ (1) Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which registered to vote;

_____ (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability on election day, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability and resides at the same address;

_____ (3) Religious belief or practice;

_____ (4) Employment as:

(a) An election authority, as a member of an election authority, or by an election authority at a location other than your polling place; or

(b) A first responder; or

(c) A health care worker; or

(d) A member of law enforcement;

_____ (5) Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained

_____ (6)

Certified participation in the address confidentiality program established under sections [589.660](#) to [589.681](#) because of safety concerns.

Current Residential Address:

Address where ballot is to be mailed, if different than Residential address:

Daytime Telephone Number: E-mail Address:

I do solemnly swear that all statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

_____ Signature of Voter
Date

All requests must be received by the Board of Election's office no later than 5:00 p.m., the second Wednesday prior to election day.

Effective August 28, 2022

MISSOURI VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Use this application to:

1. Register to vote in any election in Missouri.
2. Register to vote when you move from one jurisdiction (St. Louis City, Kansas City, or any county) to another jurisdiction (St. Louis City, Kansas City, or any county) within Missouri.
3. Change the address on a current voter registration when you move within a jurisdiction.
4. Change the name on a current voter registration.

Other information:

1. You must be 18 years of age by the day of a particular election to be eligible to vote in that election.
2. If mailed, this form must be postmarked by the 4th Wednesday preceding an election to be eligible to vote in that election. If delivered in person, it must be received in the office of the election authority by the 4th Wednesday preceding an election. (See reverse for election calendar.)
3. Submitting this application to an individual other than the election authority does not insure timely voter registration.
4. After the election authority receives your voter registration application, you will be sent confirmation within 7 business days. If you do not receive confirmation, contact the election authority.
5. If you wish to serve as an election judge on election day please contact your local election authority and mark the box at the bottom of this form.
6. Optional—If registering by mail for the first time, please submit a copy of one of the following forms of identification: current or valid photo ID, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address, birth certificate, Native American tribal document or other proof of United States citizenship. (You will be required to present identification when you vote.)

Completing this form (All information is required unless indicated as optional):

Boxes 1 and 2 -- Citizen and Age Requirements

Federal Law requires voter registration applicants to answer these two questions.

Box 3 -- Type of Application

Check appropriate box if this is a new registration or if you are changing a name or address on your current voter registration.

Box 4 -- Name

Put in this box your full name (Last, First, Middle). DO NOT use nicknames or initials. For name changes, Box 12 should contain your old name.

Box 5 -- Home Address

List your home address. DO NOT put your mailing address if it differs from your home address.

Box 6 -- Mailing Address

If you get your mail at an address other than your home address in Box 5, put that address here in this box.

Box 7 -- Driver's License Number

Required for registration unless you do not have a Driver's License. (§115.158, RSMo.) If you do not have a Driver's License, leave blank.

Box 8 -- Last Four Digits of Social Security Number

Required for registration unless you do not have a Social Security Number. (§115.155, RSMo, §115.158, RSMo.) If you do not have a Social Security Number, leave blank.

Box 9 -- Date of Birth

Place your date of birth in this box (Month, Day, Year). DO NOT USE TODAY'S DATE! **Box 10 -- Place of Birth (Optional)**

List your place of birth (city/county/state).

Box 11 -- Daytime Phone Number (Optional)

Please list a number at which the election authority may contact you for clarification of information.

Box 12 -- Last Voter Registration Information

If you are currently registered, please list the name and address of your last registration including county and state.

Box 13 -- Signature

Review the information. If you meet the requirements and all is correct, sign your full name or make your mark and print today's date.

Box 14 -- Rural Voters

If you live in a rural area without a street address, please supply information which may help in placing you in the proper voting district.

YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONFIRMED BY MAIL WITHIN SEVEN (7) BUSINESS DAYS OF ITS RECEIPT BY THE ELECTION AUTHORITY. PLEASE CONTACT THE ELECTION AUTHORITY IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE NOTIFICATION. (DETACH HERE - KEEP TOP PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS) This card is not proof of registration.



MISSOURI VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

USE PEN - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1 ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		WILL YOU BE 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE ELECTION DAY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If you checked no in response to either of the above questions, do not complete this form.			
3 <input type="checkbox"/> NEW REGISTRATION <input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE <input type="checkbox"/> NAME CHANGE		FOR OFFICE USE ONLY REGISTRATION NO. _____	
4 LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE NAME _____ SUFFIX (JR, II, ETC.) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	
5 ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE (HOUSE NO., STREET, APT. NO. OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX - NO PO BOXES) _____		CITY _____	COUNTY _____ ZIP CODE _____
6 ADDRESS WHERE YOU GET YOUR MAIL (REQUIRED IF DIFFERENT FROM #5 ABOVE) _____		CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____
7 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE, PLEASE LEAVE BLANK. _____		8 LAST 4 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER* IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PLEASE LEAVE BLANK. _____	
9 DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY) _____	10 PLACE OF BIRTH (OPTIONAL) _____	11 DAYTIME PHONE NO. (OPTIONAL) _____	
12 NAME AND ADDRESS ON LAST VOTER REGISTRATION NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY STATE _____ COUNTY _____		13 NAME I hereby certify that I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state of Missouri. I am at least seventeen and one half years of age. I have not been adjudged incapacitated by any court of law. If I have been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor connected with the right of suffrage, I have had the voting disabilities resulting from such conviction removed pursuant to law. I swear under penalty of perjury that all statements made on this card are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if I register to vote knowing that I am not legally entitled to register, I am committing a class one election offense and may be punished by imprisonment of not more than five years or by a fine of between two thousand five hundred dollars and ten thousand dollars or by both such	
14 RURAL VOTERS: COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF ANY CITY. I live _____ miles (N S E or W) of _____ (landmark or junction). Section, Township and range. _____ Date _____ Signature _____ My neighbors are _____		Warning: Conviction for making a false statement may result in imprisonment for up to five years and/or a fine up to \$10,000.	