

March 2022 Edition

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# HOUSTON LAKER

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 Carolyn Carey

Photo taken by Dennis Hodges on February 17, 2022

8 ½ inches of snow that day.



March 17, 2022



## March Community Calendar Events

March 20, 2022



**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Recycling and Trash Day pickup

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Open Access Listening Session @ City Hall, all are welcome 7pm-8pm.

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** - Open Access Listening Session @ City Hall, all are welcome 7pm-8pm.

**March 13<sup>th</sup>** - Who is ready to “Spring” forward? Daylight savings time begins at 2:00am. Remember to move your clocks forward 1 hour.



**March 14<sup>th</sup>** - City of Houston Lake Council meeting, 7:30pm. - City Hall or Virtually  
We will be offering zoom every month until further notice as an option so more residents can attend. You can email ([cityclerk@houstonlake.net](mailto:cityclerk@houstonlake.net)) to receive the link.

**March 16<sup>th</sup>** - Venetian Gardens Homes Association meeting, 7:00pm - City Hall

Paid Members can pick up 2022 wristband from 6:30pm to 7:00pm at City Hall just before the meeting. The Board of Directors Welcome and encourage Members to attend. Or you can call Homes Association Treasurer, Susan Hodges @ 816.786.2377 to get your wristbands. The wristbands are FREE if your Homes Association dues are paid.

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Open Access Listening Session @ City Hall, all are welcome 7pm-8pm.

**March 30<sup>th</sup>** - Recycling and Trash Day pickup

**March 30<sup>th</sup>** - Open Access Listening Session @ City Hall, all are welcome 7pm-8pm.

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** - **General Municipal Election**, at Heartland Church of Christ.

6120 NW Prairie View Road, Kansas City, Mo. 64151, Time 6:00am. to 7:00pm.

Any Questions please call: Platte County Board of Election (816)858-4400

**Absentee Voting** begins Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 for the April 5, 2022 General Municipal Election.

**The last day** to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to the voter is March 22, 2022. Mail your absentee request form to: Platte County Board of Elections, P.O. Box 560, Platte City, Mo. 64079

Applications for a **Building Permit**, **Open Burning Permit** for recreational purpose and **Dumpster Permit** may be obtained by downloading the application on our website [houstonlake.net](http://houstonlake.net), you can call and leave a message at City Hall 816-741-0644 or contact your Alderwoman. **Note: Please submit all applications for permits 10 days prior to the meeting for consideration. Applications can be deposited in the mail box at the front of the building.**

Venetian Gardens Homes Association  
Meeting  
Minutes  
February 16, 2022

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at City Hall

**Roll Call:** Mary Head

Present: Joe Briones, President, Susan Hodges, Secretary/Treasurer, Mary Head, Board Member, Kerry Hallowell, Board Member

Absent: Brendan Brousseau, Vice President

**Treasurer's report:**

Susan Hodges provided the current financial statements and presented the financial report for November, December, and January.

**Meeting:**

Joe discussed the investigation of grants to replace the boat docks. However, to get grants the docks would need to be on public property. The docks are used by the public, but they are not on public property, so the HOA could not apply for the grants. It is the intention to continue to work on ways to replace the docks. He also asked for volunteers for grant writing and water sampling.

Joe has no new business. Kerry commented that we need to reach out to others to volunteer for the goose patrol soon as it appears that this is potentially an early season. Reseeding the peninsula should also be scheduled.

Joe introduced two guest speakers, Tina Walker Robin and Steven Modrcin. Steven presented several dredging options. Tina presented lake management strategies.

**Dredging Options**

Steven researched several vendors for his presentation. He provided the vendors with a map, showing an area outlined as a rough draft map to begin the discussion with the vendors.

Truxor was the first option presented. It sells for approximately \$200,000 with attachments to purchase, or \$25,000 for leasing. They recommend that Dredge Smart do a lake study at a cost of \$8,450. This study would include the type of silt in the lake and the depth of the lake, etc. The greatest disadvantage with this option is that the lake is too large for this dredge to be cost efficient.

The Piranha Mini Dredger was also researched at a cost of \$10,000 plus attachments and training. It is not capable of entire lake and may remove 7,000 to 8,000 cubic yards of silt. It pumps the slurry into bags or on to the ground via tubing. It might handle the most critical part of the lake however when asked about training the response was to watch videos which Steven commented, is disturbing. Steven said that he hesitates to recommend this option without seeing one in action.

Muckminers is based in St. Louis. Steven sent them a map to see what they could do. They can dredge large area at an estimated cost of \$250,000 to \$300,000 for about 9,000 cubic yards. He commented that they posed an interesting idea saying that it is cheaper and more efficient if you have a deep end of the lake spread the silt out over a larger area. Two companies recommended this option. Kerry asked how does that benefit us and Steven replied that there is no perfect solutions but it is an interesting concept.

Bulletproof is a possible local solution for shorelines behind the houses. They can easily remove \$1,080 cubic feet at a cost of \$4,300, and \$3,300 for each additional 1,089 cubic feet. They will put the silt in a truck to distribute it to a designated areas within the City of Houston Lake. The owner said they could reach twelve feet from the shoreline; however, Steven thinks it is more like 6 to 8 feet. They use crude and rudimentary equipment will leave a footprint which will need to be repaired.

Steven asked if there are permits that are needed. The city required permits for the dredging that was done a couple of years ago. Steven mentioned that it will take two years for the silt to dry. He also commented that transporting is expensive. He also noted that neighbors might consider pooling resources to dredge behind their property.

Joe commented that operating costs such as, maintenance, storage, insurance, and labor would likely increase the cost. Volunteers might be considered, however many members work. Other comments included ...Lease for a month or lease it with an operator. Some companies charge \$200 per hour for operator. Mobilization cost, fuel and insurance are also concerns.

Steven was asked if any of the operations were viable options for the silt pond clean up. Steven suggested Bulletproof. Joe said that the HOA will get three bids.

Steven said that the estimates are a beginning discussion point and can be refined based on the scope of the project.

Joe then introduced Tina Walker Robin.

## Lake Management

Teena presented an introductory preliminary report based on research. The draft plan and calendar will grow over time and be modified based on the evaluations of stakeholders. Lake management a fluid process management as new options become available. The effectiveness of the plan is measurable by the improvement of the quality of the lake and by removing more silt than is deposited annually.

The lake has 1.32 miles of shoreline and eighteen acres of area lake and is formed by groundwater fed by five tributaries.

The plan is to increase water depth by decreasing muck and invasive vegetation to increase utilization of the lake by residents. Aquatic lake control management and other management tools can be conducted year-round. For example, use herbicide early spring but plan so that it will not kill all the fish. Control weeds in cool months. Do in little chunks. Biological control is already being done with grass carp.

The lake needs to be mapped with a good lake mapping tool. This will help identify spots where invasive vegetation comes up every year. Tina requested that the HOA purchase this tool. Joe commented that he believed the cost range would be from \$500 to \$3500 and questioned who will do the mapping, how does it work and would it be able to map in shallow area. If mapping, Joe wants whole lake mapped. Platte County is planning to work on park in our watershed. If there is no erosion control, like they did when the school was built, we will have the same problem. Does a map transfer to other software? Joe agrees that mapping should be considered. Tina committed to provide pricing on a mapping tool, and suggested that this be the HOA's first purchase.

Tina then talked about aerating the lake. There are new options such as systems that have nano bubbles and those that use surface aeration in shallow water.

Tina then discussed dredging. She recommended the Truxor lease option as it could dredge silt pond and work on the covers all without the expense of ownership. Kerry commented that we are back to same problem which is, what do we with the silt? Tina responded that we are doing a little bit. Joe said that the machine is really small and does \$30,000 include an operator? Tina said no it does not include operator. Tina said she has the Truxor contract and will send it to Joe. Joe will review it.

A member asked about plans for cleaning beach and public docks. Members want to use it and take their family. It was suggested that the HOA consider using a labor company for some projects. Joe said that the board has discussed putting a hose, in a safe container, at the beach for the members to use for cleaning.

Joe closed the meeting by saying that our lake is 90 years old, and the average life expectancy of a man-made lake is 50 years. The HOA has funding problems. Any board is going to have the same problem. The presentations are appreciated. Lake maintenance management is expensive. To tell people what color mailbox must be is easy. Managing a lake is hard. Dredging a lake is most expensive and it is probably the greatest need. Second is aeration. The HOA needs more help from the community. We need to pursue grants, so this one area where the community can help.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Minutes submitted by: Susan Hodges, Secretary

**Homes Association Dues:** was mailed Jan. 31, 2022. Annual dues are \$450.00 for a year, and they will become delinquent March 2, 2021. 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 call:

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<b>call</b>	<b>Secretary/Treasurer Susan Hodges 816.786.2377 or email her at <a href="mailto:hodges.susan@outlook.com">hodges.susan@outlook.com</a>, Thank you</b>
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Our next **Homes Association meeting will be March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at 7:00pm. Paid Members can pick up 2022 wristband from 6:30pm to 7:00pm at City Hall just before the meeting. The Board of Directors Welcome and encourage Members to attend. The wristbands are FREE if your Homes Association dues are paid.

**2022 Lake Wristband** If you would like your 2022 Lake Wristband please call Homes Association Treasurer Susan Hodges @ 816.786.2377. Wristbands are required to be worn on Homes Association property, such as the Beach, use of Shelters, Boating and Fishing. **Lake Residents from the age of 16 through 64 need a Missouri Fishing License and a Houston Lake 2022 Wristband in order to fish in Houston Lake.** Residents 65 and over need only a 2022 Wristband. Wristbands are FREE.

**ABSOLUTELY NO FISHING IN THE BEACH AREA.**

## CITY NEWS

### City Hall Gardeners!



It's time to start planning the garden beds at City Hall. I stepped out in the snow yesterday and measured the bed across the front and along the parking side.

We are sticking with native plants only to help with maintenance and avoid adding more invasive species to Houston Lake. Check out these sites for ideas and we can meet at City Hall Wednesday, March 2nd at 7pm during the Listening Session.

Anyone interested in the plots at the community garden are welcome to attend for more information.

[Grownative.org](http://Grownative.org)

[Mdc.mo.gov](http://Mdc.mo.gov)

[Mowildflowers.net](http://Mowildflowers.net)

[Sugarcreekgardens.com](http://Sugarcreekgardens.com)

### Spillway Bridge



*Houston Lake Spillway Bridge*

I am directing our municipal funding consultant to find a grant to open the spillway bridge.

According to a BEAP engineering study conducted at the order of Mayor Freese, we were offered three options to make the bridge comply with current codes. The costs ranged from 208.5 thousand to 247.6 thousand. We have already received half of the \$45,000 that we could use to meet the 20% of project costs usually required by these grants.

So far, our consultant is working on a Federal Grant administered by the state of Missouri called "Bridge Formula Grant" It is a 100% matching funds.

So, we would be reimbursed for all costs to bring the bridge to code. During the discussion at the last city meeting (before knowledge of the Bridge Formula Grant), most city councils preferred focusing on stormwater control.

**City of Houston Lake City Council Meeting Minutes January 17, 2022 at 7:30pm**  
**\*Rescheduled from January 10, 2022 at 7:30pm due to illness, held In Person at City Hall/Adrian or Virtual via Zoom**

**Mayor Stone opened the meeting at 7:29pm** - Roll Call - Present: Mayor Stone, Alderwoman Teena Walker-Robin , Alderwoman Ann Marie Murphy, Alderwoman Sarah Farsace , Alderwoman Ashley Fuglestad; Absent: None

**Motion to approve the Agenda 01/17/2022** - Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney - None; Abstain - Alderwoman Fuglestad **Motion Passes**

**Motion to approve the Minutes from 12/13/2021** - Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Ney - None; Abstain Alderwoman Fuglestad **Motion Passes**

**Ashley (Branham) Fuglestad sworn in as the South Ward 2 Alderwoman**

**Emergency Management** - Fire Department Report provided by Riverside Fire Rescue Jeff Taylor - December was an unbusy month. Apologies for not being able to have Santa on the firetruck. The windstorm had the department sitting at some down power lines on Edgewater trail. That was the only call that was ran in Houston Lake. Alderwoman Murphy thanked Jeff Taylor for having Santa come around the next day.

Sheriff Report provided by Captain Woodrow Painter - Not present for reporting in person. Mayor Stone read through the report. 2 stolen autos reported in December.

**Codes Report** - December 2021 Report provided by Cathy Groves - wrote 0 violations. 2 cases from October and November were carried over and have been abated. Would like to plan a night with the Mayor and 1 or 2 Alderwomen to go over some of the ordinance changes that Cathy Groves would like to recommend to aid Codes Enforcement in writing and following up on violations. These include grass and weeds, rubbish, and outdoor storage including inside carports.

**Venetian Gardens' Homes Association Report** - HOA Dues will go out Jan 31, 2022 and are due Mar 1, 2022

**Planning and Zoning** - Nothing to report

**Public Discussion** - Joseph Briones Edgewood Circle asked what the plan for and how will the American Rescue Act funds on the budget be spent. Mayor Stone said that a final rule of how the money can be spent was just sent to the cities. There is a line that says that the funds can be spent in the general funding. All cities can spend, use a flat rate for budget losses; the cities rate is \$45,000. Alderwoman Walker-Robin said that if the money is spent on stormwater we could have more money to spend with a grant that is a 20/80% . Council has not confirmed how the funds will be spent at this time. What is the status of the engineering consultation of the lake of the different areas mentioned. Mayor Stone said that we are using the consulting to write a proposal for engineering. The meeting has not taken place yet. Mr. Briones said that he wants to make sure the Edgewood Trail and Wagon Trail are in consideration to be included in the funds used. The previous work completed is deteriorating and needs to have work done again.

**Permits** - Burn Permit - None, Building Permit -None \*5400 Venetian and All in 1 Plumbing is having work done as a extension to repairs that were done previously and need to be redone.

**Treasurer's Report** - Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Alderwoman Farsace; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Fudlestad; Ney - None; Abstain - None **Treasurer's Report Accepted**

**Resolution No 01.10.2022** - Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin, 2nd Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy; Ney - None; Abstain - None **Resolution Passed**

### **Old Business**

HOA Burn Permit was rescinded by the HOA board, no vote was necessary

Spillway Bridge Improvements - Mayor Stone said that a company has a grid surface repair that can be laid over the bridge and would make the bridge more user friendly and safe for foot and bike traffic until repairs/replacement can be made to the bridge to make it usable for automobiles. No decision will be made until the budget has been addressed.

### **New Business**

Teena Walker-Robin vote to become Mayor Pro-Tempore - Motion Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Fuglestad; Ney - None; Abstain - Alderwoman Walker-Robin

5 year plan presentation - Mayor Stone made a preliminary presentation of a 5 year plan that will have more work done and presented at a future date.

Discussion and Vote on budget adjustments based on December income surplus - Mayor Stone said that with the American Rescue Act and Real Estate Tax adjustments there is more money in the general fund than was originally budgeted. Alderwoman Walker-Robin would like to have a working meeting to clarify how the Real Estate tax was paid out and that the city will not be requested to return any of those funds. Included in the working meeting would be the \$1,000 to cover the cost of brush removal, replacement of storm doors at City Hall, electronic key code for the garage door and copier expenses to keep the Houston Laker being printed. Alderwoman Farsace expressed concern that the last time the taxes were deposited the county came back later and requested funds be returned as an overpayment.

**Adjournment - Motion to adjourn** Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney - None; Abstain - None **Meeting Adjourned at 9:17pm**

## 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.

Dumpster Permit is required for all homes in our city. (Ord. no. 359 Section 235.060).

#### 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](http://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.

#### Fire Danger

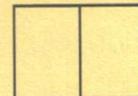
Over the years, Kansas City has issued several Red Flag Warnings to alert residents against starting fires. Please pay attention to the local news and refrain from starting any fires.

**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.**

# Cast your official ballot at the Heartland Church of Christ

6120 NW Prairie View Road  
Kansas City, Mo. 64151  
Time 6:00am. To 7:00pm.



8

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
General Municipal Election  
Platte County, Missouri  
April 5, 2022

### Instructions

Completely fill in the target next to the candidate or question response of your choice like this: ●

If you do not see the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote, darken the target opposite the write-in line and print the name of the candidate on the write-in line provided.

If you are in favor of the question, completely fill in the target opposite "YES". If you are opposed to the question, completely fill in the target opposite "NO".

NOTE: The ballot reading device in use is designed to only record votes cast as a filled in target. There can be no erasures, stray marks, check marks, or cross outs on the ballot. If you make an error marking the ballot, see an Election Judge to receive a replacement ballot.

### Proposition I

Shall the Park Hill School District of Platte County, Missouri, issue its general obligation bonds in the amount of \$137 million for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, improving, renovating, furnishing and equipping new and existing school facilities including but not limited to the construction of an elementary school and acquiring land?

If this proposition is approved, the debt service property tax levy of the school district is estimated to not exceed the current debt service levy of \$0.9909 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property.

YES   
NO

### Proposition N

Shall the Park Hill School District of Platte County, Missouri, be authorized to increase the operating property tax levy ceiling to \$4.9907 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation according to the 2021 assessment for the purpose of paying general operating expenses, such as operating, maintaining, and staffing school facilities?

If this proposition is approved, the adjusted operating property tax levy of the school district is expected to increase by \$0.2700 from \$4.4046 to \$4.6746 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation; however, the estimated overall District adjusted property tax levy is expected to remain unchanged at \$5.3955 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation as a result of an expected corresponding reduction to its debt service property tax levy.

YES   
NO

### Park Hill School District For School Board Member (Vote for TWO)

- Cory Terrell
- Tammy M. Thompson
- Daryl Terwilleger
- Jason Richard Keck
- Shereka Denice Barnes
- Jeffery (Jeff) Runyan
- Christopher Robyn LaCour
- Diona "Kelli" Johnson
- Write-in
- Write-in

### Village of Houston Lake For Alderman North Ward 2 (Vote for ONE)

- Annemarie Murphy
- Write-in

**If you live on one of these streets; Houston Lake Drive, Venetian Drive, Venetian Circle, Adrian or 56<sup>th</sup> Street you vote from this page.**

# Cast your official ballot at the Heartland Church of Christ

OFFICIAL BALLOT  
General Municipal Election  
Platte County, Missouri  
April 5, 2022

6120 NW Prairie View Road  
Kansas City, Mo. 64151  
Time 6:00am. To 7:00pm.



9

### Instructions

Completely fill in the target next to the candidate or question response of your choice like this: ●

If you do not see the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote, darken the target opposite the write-in line and print the name of the candidate on the write-in line provided.

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YES

NO

### Park Hill School District

#### For School Board Member

(Vote for TWO)

Cory Terrell

Tammy M. Thompson

Daryl Terwilleger

Jason Richard Keck

Shereka Denice Barnes

Jeffery (Jeff) Runyan

Christopher Robyn LaCour

Diona "Kelli" Johnson

Write-in

Write-in

### Village of Houston Lake

#### For Alderman South Ward 1

(Vote for ONE)

Sarah Farsace

Write-in

**If you live on one of these streets: NW Edgewater Trail, NW Edgewood Trail, NW Edgewood Circle, NW Wagon Trail, NW Wagon Trail Circle, or NW Johnson Trail you vote from this page.**

## REQUEST FOR MISSOURI ABSENTEE BALLOT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby request an absentee ballot for the

Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_ Election.

Election Date

For identification purposes, the last four digits of my social security number are: \_\_\_\_\_.

If this is a primary election, please print the name of the political party ballot you wish to receive: \_\_\_\_\_.

Reason for requesting an absentee ballot:

\_\_\_\_\_ Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which I am registered

\_\_\_\_\_ Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including caring for a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability

\_\_\_\_\_ Religious belief or practice

\_\_\_\_\_ Employment as an election authority or by an election authority at a location other than my polling place

\_\_\_\_\_ Incarceration, although I have retained all the necessary qualifications for voting

\_\_\_\_\_ Certified participation in the address confidentiality program established under sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of safety concerns.

Address where I am registered to vote:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip Code)

Address where ballot is to be mailed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address or PO Box)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip Code)

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include Area Code)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Registered Voter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Mail this completed form to your local election authority. Addresses can be found [on the Missouri Secretary of State's website](#). Missouri law requires that requests for absentee ballots must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday prior to Election Day if the ballot is mailed. The deadline for absentee voting in person in the office of the election authority is 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election. If you registered by mail and this is your first time voting, you must provide a copy of either: (1) an ID issued by the Federal Government, state of Missouri, or a local election authority; (2) ID issued by a Missouri institution (public or private) of higher education; or (3) a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check or other government document that contains your name and address.*

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Enhancing the Grey

Brow Shaping

Best wishes to you,  
Marlene