

HOUSTON LAKER



Independence Day Fun

4th of July Pet Show, Photos taken by Rick DeLaFuente



September Community Calendar Events

Aug. 31st - Wed. = Open Access Listening Session @ City Hall, all are welcome 7pm-8pm

Sept. 3rd, Sept. 10th, Sept. 17, & Sept. 24th = Saturdays - Open Access Listening Session
@ City Hall, all are welcome 9am - 10am, with Coffee and Donuts

Sept. 7th, Sept. 14th, & Sept. 28th = Wednesday – Open Access Listening Session
@ City Hall, all are welcome 7pm – 8pm

Sept. 5th -



Sept. 8th - Trash Pickup Day

Sept. 12th - City of Houston Lake Council Meeting @ 7:30pm - City Hall or Virtually.
Video conferencing will use “Google Meet.” It has dial-in option. You can email
(cityclerk@houstonlake.net) to receive the link.

Sept. 14th - Recycle and Trash pickup day

Sept. 21st - Venetian Gardens Homes Association meeting @ 7:00pm – City Hall

Sept. 27th - Absentee voting begins for Nov. 8th, 2022 General Election

Oct. 1st - Saturday = Open Access Listening Session @ City Hall,
All are welcome 9am – 10am with coffee and donuts

Water Test taken around the Beach Area

Great Plains Analytical Laboratory tested a water sample extracted around the Beach area of Houston Lake on Tuesday Aug. 23rd, 2022. The water sample was analyzed for E. coli. Results conclude that Houston Lake is safe for swimming. **E. Coli (water) = 13*** *If the geometric mean of the water quality sample results does not exceed the equivalent of 190 E. coli colonies the 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



Jumping Branch Creek Houston Lake Water Quality Report August 23, 2022

The Osage Trails Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalist group visited Houston Lake and conducted water quality monitoring on July 17th and again on August 7th. 7 bags of trash were removed from the woods surrounding Jumping Branch Creek leading into the silt pond in addition to 2 bags of trash removed from the shoreline of Houston Lake.

Water testing on **Jumping Branch Creek** included Nitrate, Dissolved Oxygen, Conductivity, and Chlorides. Those results may be found below:

Nitrate measurement was averaged between creek testing meters at .75 mg/L. Naturally occurring levels of nitrate vary substantially across the country, and statistical analyses suggest that appropriate levels range from .12 - 2.2 mg/L. By those standards, Jumping Branch Creek is within the normal appropriate levels.

Dissolved Oxygen measured at 6 mg/L with 73% saturation. Healthy water should generally have dissolved oxygen concentrations above 6.5-8 mg/L (about 80-120% saturation). Jumping Branch Creek tested low for dissolved oxygen, which is not a good water quality indicator for aquatic life, such as fish and macro-invertebrates.

A pH of 6.5 - 8.2 is optimal for most

plants and animals. Jumping Branch Creek measured at 7.4, which is an indicator of a healthy stream.

Mid-range conductivity (200 to 1000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) is the normal background for most streams. Jumping Branch Creek measured in at 780 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, which is considered a healthy measurement.

In summer rotations, macro-invertebrates are not observed, as disturbing the benthic layer of the stream during summer and winter temperatures destroys too much of their habitats, killing off many of the organisms we are here to protect. Macro-invertebrate observations will be conducted again sometime in the autumn.

Houston Lake water quality measurements are taken for nutrients, cyanotoxins, total suspended solids, chlorophyll, nitrates, and ammonium. Those samples have been sent to the LMVP labs and are being processed. From a visual standpoint, the lake was far siltier than normal, clogging all filters during sampling. It is our recommendation that residents do not eat any fish from the lake until further testing can verify the safety of the fish for consumption.

Volunteer Programs Funded In Part by:



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Missouri Department of Conservation

August 24, 2022

To All Venetian Gardens Members in Good Standing.

You are formally invited and strongly encouraged to attend all HOA meetings held at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday each month to express and have heard, your voices, preferences and opinions.

Your presence is crucial Wednesday September 21 and October 19, 2022 at 7:00PM!!

The consistent goal of the HOA Board is transparency! To that end, the meeting scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on September 21, 2022 is to communicate to homeowners the proposed Amendments to existing Restrictions, By-Laws and Regulations. The Board shall disclose each of these intended proposals in a line item fashion, to be voted upon at 7:00 p.m. on October 19, 2022. That will give each member in good standing weeks to contemplate the pros and cons of each.

Again, your attendance at 7:00 p.m. on OCTOBER 19, 2022 is important. On this date we shall all vote as a community, on the proposed Venetian Gardens Homes Association Amendments to existing corporate documents, 2022/2023 Budget, Lake Assessment Dues, 3 Board Member 2 year terms, President and Vice-President 1 year term.

Venetian Gardens Homes Association.

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 three vacancies on the Homes Association Board in the Annual October Meeting. Three Elected Board Member will serve a two year term.

Anyone interested in becoming a Board Member, please complete the application on this page and return to Homes Association Secretary Sue Hodges by email at hodges.susan@outlook.com or call her @ 816.786.2377 by September 15, 2022. 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 in October.

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

The Treasurer, Susan Hodges, will meet with the volunteers 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.

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 proceeding 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 homeowner's 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.

Please make sure you have **house numbers on your house**. This makes it easier for emergency services to find you if you need them. 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.

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.

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

This would make a wonderful gift to someone special.

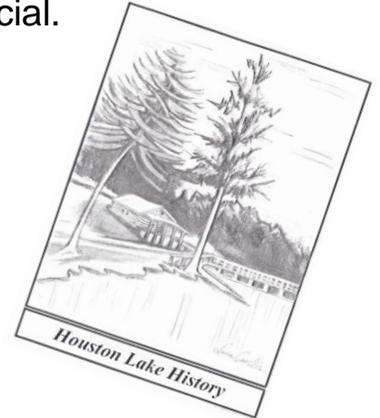


3 = books for \$10.00

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 Mary Head - 816.741.5639.

Thank You

HOUSTON LAKE COMMUNITY BOOK EXCHANGE

Houston Lake has a Community Book Exchange available for everyone's use. If you want a book, come get one. If you want to donate books, just leave them. And thanks! We'll take puzzles and magazines too. The top shelf is for the adults, the bottom shelf is reachable for kids. Located at 5417 N.W. Adrian (City Hall front porch).



City News

THIS WEEK'S TOP STORIES

Listening Session Explores Process for Effecting Change

At the August 10th, 2022 Wednesday night Listening Session, residents talked about restrictions imposed by Houston Lake City Code and Venetian Gardens HomeOwners Association (VGHOA) By-Laws.

Both documents were inherited by current board and council members, as well as most residents. This does not mean they are perfect or carved in stone. If there is something residents would like to see altered, here's a high level overview of how to effect change:

- Determine if the restriction real or legend
 - If real, determine if the restriction is coming from the City of Houston Lake or the Venetian Gardens Homeowners Association, or some combination of both
 - Propose a change to the applicable organization, the VGHOA Board or the City Council
- City Hall is open and available to residents during Listening Sessions 7-8pm on

Wednesday evenings and 9-10 am on Saturday mornings. City Officials will be on hand with access to both the city code and the HOA governing documents. While we are not lawyers, we are happy to help with your research.

Democracy requires public participation and community engagement to deliver a government "of the people, by the people, for the people." Local governments have a responsibility to engage their community members in a robust and equitable manner in order to effectively carry out the key functions of government, such as crafting and implementing laws, budgets, plans, directives, and strategic visions.

Let's be the change we want to see in the world!

Alderman Issues Formal Apology

Alderwoman Teena Walker-Robin would like to issue a formal apology to Ms. Evon Briones for answering "Just You" in response to Ms. Briones [paraphrased]

question "Who else is timed?" at the July City Council Meeting.

Alderman Walker-Robin explains "Ms. Briones had already spoken on budget topics, when she began reading a prepared speech on another topic. Four residents ceded their time to Ms. Briones each time her two minutes expired. Yes, I was a tired human being in addition to being an alderman, and Ms. Briones has read versions of this particular speech into the record several times previously. I will admit to having little appetite for listening to those remarks again. Still, my comment was sarcasm, and not a statement of fact. The two minute rule applies to everybody. So for transparency, Ms. Briones, I'd like to apologize for the sarcasm and correct the record. The two minute rule applies to all residents during public discussion."

For context, city council meetings have been known to go as late as 11:30 pm when left unchecked. For this reason, Robert's Rules of Order have been loosely

[continued]

adopted. Residents are asked to limit their comments to the Public Comments portion of the agenda, with one visit to the podium and a maximum of two minutes per resident.

Public comment does occur before other agenda items. Residents who wish to address agenda items that come up after Public Discussion, are encouraged to make note of the comment and offer it during Public Discussion at the next monthly council meeting.

For time sensitive issues, you are welcome to:

Chat with any members of the council who stay behind after the meeting to interact with residents

Contact any member of the council directly - Select the City Government on the main menu of this site to access contact information on Council Members

Bring it to an Open Access Listening Session. Listening Sessions are currently held on Wednesday nights from 7-8 pm, and on Saturdays mornings from 9-10 am.

[READ MORE @
HOUSTONLAKE.GOV](http://HOUSTONLAKE.GOV)

Detached Structures

At a recent listening session, Mayor Chuck Stone was asked to look up what the codes say about detached structures. The Mayor explains, "The last paragraph of the section says, 'No lot shall be permitted more than one (1) structure permitted by this Section.' At the meeting, I gave a possible interpretation that the section permitted one of each type of structure. For example, one garage and one lawn shed. Because some people may have left the meeting thinking that is the new policy, I have been asked to clarify.

Firstly, my interpretation of the codes doesn't mean anything because that last paragraph of the code also says that a detached structure would require a permit. The city council would probably interpret the rule differently than I did. The mayor has no vote on permits unless there is a tie vote.

Secondly, the section was only referring to garages and lawn sheds. It was not referring to carports, cottages, and houses. Again, the city council would make the final decision. It may take some time to research our codes and the universal building codes in such a case. That is why there is a requirement to submit

building code applications 10 days before regularly scheduled meetings."

Free UnClassified Ads for HL Residents

Looking to rehome something you no longer use? Or a resale purchase that didn't work out? Your unclassified ad is free to residents on www.houstonlake.gov.

Send your copy and photos to unclassified@houstonlake.gov



City of Houston Lake
5417 N Adrian
Houston Lake, MO 64151

www.houstonlake.gov



City of Houston Lake Annual Budget Meeting - July 18, 2022 at 7:00pm *Rescheduled from July 11, 2022 Held in person at City Hall and Virtually via Zoom (due to software issues could not attend virtually on Zoom)

A SPECIAL ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

Mayor Stone opened the meeting at 7:05pm Roll Call: Present in person- Mayor Chuck Stone, Alderwoman Sarah Farsace, Alderwoman Ashley Fuglestad, Alderwoman Annemarie Murphy, Alderwoman Teena Walker-Robin; Present virtually- None; Absent- None

Motion to Approve the Agenda for the Budget Meeting: 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Farsace; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Fuglestad; Ney- None; Abstain- None

Budget Message: Mayor Chuck Stone spoke about the line items that were in question at the June meeting.

Public Comment:

- Sharon Delafuente - Unhappy with the reduction of the copier maintenance because that funds the Houston Lake Newspaper. Many city events are included in the paper and we need to build the community and keep the publication.
- Evonne Briones - Reduced 2 line items by \$500. Why don't you make a line item for the Houston Laker \$500 to keep the copier maintenance and city clerk supplies separate from the Houston Laker so it can be tracked. Sewer and Trash is a separate item on our property tax. This gets added to our property tax bill as residents.

City Clerk read the Ordinance by title 1st and 2nd time

Council Vote on 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget for City of Houston Lake - Changing the KC Sewer/Trash to \$120,000. Add a line item separate for the Houston Laker Newspaper \$500: 1st Motion Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney- None; Abstain- None Budget and Ordinance approved

Motion to Adjourn Budget Meeting: 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy; Ney- None; Abstain- None Motion Approved Budget meeting adjourned at 7:51pm

City Council Meeting Agenda - July 18, 2022 at 7:30pm *Rescheduled from July 11, 2022 Held in person at City Hall and Virtually via Zoom (due to software issues could not attend virtually on Zoom)

Mayor Stone opened the meeting at 7:52 pm Roll Call: Present in person- Mayor Chuck Stone, Alderwoman Sarah Farsace, Alderwoman Ashley Fuglestad, Alderwoman Annemarie Murphy, Alderwoman Teena Walker-Robin; Present virtually- None; Absent- None

Motion to approve the Agenda for 07/18/2022: 1st Motion Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney- None; Abstain- None **Motion Passes**

Motion to approve the minutes from 06/20/2022 (6/13/2022 postponed) meeting: 1st Motion Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Murphy; Ney- None; Abstain- None **Motion passes**

Emergency Management

Fire Department - Not Present No Report

Sheriff Report - Deputy Burns presented Abandoned Vehicle turned out to be stolen out of Merriam Kansas. Report of a burglary turned out to be a domestic disturbance. Residents brought up that a young person 12 to 15 years of age is riding a motorcycle/scooter on the roads. Council asked if the city could get the use of a digital speed sign.

Codes Report June 2022 Report Presented by Cathy Grove, Codes Enforcement Officer - Wrote no violations and there are no abatements

Venetian Gardens HomeOwners Association Report - Mary Head announced there would be a meeting this Wednesday at 7pm

Public Discussion

- Sharon Delefunte - Thank the city for the 4th of July celebration. The parade and pet show were great. Thank you Mayor Stone for cooking and the potluck was great. Gas main is in front of my house. Service interruption will be at the end of this week or beginning of next week.
- Evonne Briones - In response to the agenda with the Rentals Registration. The short term rental restriction was requested by the HOA to make the change as a land use update. Mrs. Briones asked that a note in the minutes be made that Alderwoman Walker-Robin and Alderwoman Murphy did not look at the visual presented.
 - Joseph Briones yielded his time to Evonne Briones
 - Mary Head yielded her time to Evonne Briones
 - Katherine Stockbauer yielded her time to Evonne Briones
- Sam Morgan 5415 NW Venetian - Appreciate the City Council city liberties the less regulation the better. As long as it is not illegal they should not be regulated. People should use their property as they see fit.
- Bobbie Baker - Short term rentals are not illegal and not immoral and would hate to see it become illegal.

Permits

Motion to approve burn permit 5408 Venetian Drive (Correction 5408 Houston Lake Drive): 1st Motion Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney- None; Abstain- None **Permit approved**

Motion to approve burn permit 5400 Venetian Drive (Correction 5402 Venetian Drive): 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Ney- None; Abstain- None **Permit approved**

Motion to approve building permit 5424 Venetian Drive (Correction 5424 Venetian Circle): Request for permit dropped by the resident

Motion to approve building permit 5436 Venetian Drive (Dock Permit): 1st Motion Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney- None; Abstain- None **Permit approved**

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: 1st Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Fuglestad; Ney- None; Abstain- None **Motion Approved**

Motion to Pay Bills - Resolution Number 07.11.2022: 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Farsace; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy; Ney- None; Abstain- None **Motion Approved**

Old Business- None

New Business-

- Drafting a Rental Registration Policy - After Council discussion of the wording of the suggested Rental Registration form, it was determined that this will go to a working committee
- Spillway Bridge Grant - Baker Tilly will file a report for the ARPA, their expenses come out of the grant. Mayor Stone put them on the project of looking for grants and they have found a grant that could bring the spillway bridge up to code. The grant would be for 100% reimbursed funding.

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Motion Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Ney- None; Abstain- None **Motion Approved**

Meeting adjourned at 9:36pm

Final Minutes Approved 08/08/2022 ss

2022 Tax Levy Hearing was held in-person at City Hall and virtually via Google Meet on Monday, August 22, 2022 7:00pm - **FINAL MINUTES**

Mayor Chuck Stone opened the meeting at 7:03pm

Roll Call of Attendees: Alderwoman Ashley Fuglestad, Alderwoman Sarah Farsace and Alderwoman Annmarie Murphy attended virtually. Alderwoman Teena Walker-Robin and Mayor Chuck Stone attended in-person.

Mayor Stone read the 2021 tax rates and read the 2022 tax rates. The floor was opened for public comment and discussion.

Public Comment/Discussion - None

The floor was opened to the council for discussion. Alderwoman Walker-Robin asked that if the tax rate was going up why was there not a more significant revenue increase. Council agreed that the process of tax evaluation needs to be a learning point.

Sarah Schofield, City Clerk read the tax ordinance by title once.

Sarah Schofield, City Clerk read the tax ordinance by title a second time.

Motion to Accept the tax rate of .5559 by Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd by Alderwoman Farsace.
Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Murphy. Ney - None. Abstain - None **MOTION PASSED**

Motion to Adjourn by Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Alderwoman Farsace.

Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy. Ney - None. Abstain - None **MOTION PASSED**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15PM

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Specializing in Haircolor

Color Correction

Grey Coverage

Enhancing the Grey

Brow Shaping

Best wishes to you,
Marlene