

CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE AND VENETIAN GARDENS HOME ASSOCIATION



Holiday Celebration at the Lake

The City of Houston Lake is hosting a Holiday Celebration at city hall on Thursday, December 15th at 6pm featuring Carollers, a Chili Dinner and fan favorite, Garage Sale Bingo.

The city will provide the chili. While it is not necessary to bring anything, community members are welcome to bring chili fixins (cornbread, sour cream, shredded cheese, corn chips) or deserts.

Donations for the Garage Sale Bingo may be dropped off at city hall during any listening session, city meeting or on the day of, prior to the event. If you would like to drop off donations at another time, feel free to reach out to Alderman Teena Walker-Robin.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Municipal Elections are Coming!

State of Missouri General Municipal Elections will be held on April 4, 2023.

The City of Houston Lake will have 3 city council seats on the ballot. These will be for the election of Mayor, one Alderman from Ward 1 on the South side of the lake and one Alderman from Ward 2 on the North side of the lake. Each city council seat is for a two (2) year term.

Dates for filing your candidacy are December 6, 2022 through December 27, 2022.

To obtain the candidate forms and more information contact Sarah Schofield at cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

*"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."
Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

Qualifications for Alderman in accordance with city ordinances are that, "No person shall be an Alderman unless he/she be at

December Dates to Remember



Open Access Listening Sessions are held at City Hall on Thursdays from 7pm to 8pm and Saturdays from 9am to 10am. Visit with representatives from City Council and HOA. Saturdays they bring donuts!

Trash Pick Up is each Wednesday. Recycling will be picked up on December 7th.

December 6th - 27th Candidate filing for Municipal Elections.

December 12th - City Council Meeting at City Hall and Virtually, begins at 7:30pm. Contact cityclerk@houstonlake.gov for info.

December 14th - Venetian Gardens HOA Meeting at City Hall and virtual begins at 7:00pm.

December 15th - Holiday Celebration! Begins at 6:00pm at City Hall.

December 23rd, 26th, 30th & January 2nd - City Offices will be closed

City Clerk is available by appointment cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

Municipal Elections continued from page 1

least twenty-one (21) years of age, a citizen of the United States, and an inhabitant and resident of the City for one (1) year next preceding his/her election, and a resident, at the time he/she files and during the time he/she serves, of the ward from which he/she is elected." (Chptr. 110, Article I, Sect. 110.010)

Qualifications for Mayor in accordance with city ordinances are that, "No person shall be Mayor unless he/she be at least twenty-five (25) years of age, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the City at the time of and for at least one (1) year next preceding his/her election." (Chptr. 110, Article I, Sect. 110.020)

The boundaries of the respective wards shall be: (Chptr. 105, Article II, Sec. 105.070)

FIRST WARD — The First (1st) or South Ward shall consist of all that area of the City lying south of a line projected from a point in the City limits halfway between Lot 10 and Lot 58, southeasterly through the lake area and bisecting the center of the dam to the City limits.

SECOND WARD — The Second (2nd) or North Ward shall consist of all that area of the City lying north of a line projected from a point in the City limits halfway between Lot 10 and Lot 58, southeasterly through the lake area and bisecting the center of the dam to the City limits.



Houston Lake, MO

Resident Survey for Parks

City of Houston Lake would like resident feedback before applying for the 2023 Platte County Park Grant. PLEASE complete the survey using the link at [houstonlake.gov](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QYH22N3) or get the link from the city clerk at cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

The city has 5 areas to choose from for the application; Mayors Park on Edgewater at the corner to the bridge, the park area next to the swim beach, the walking path and property giving access from Venetian to the footbridge at the lake on Adrian, the playground across from city hall or the peninsula next to the community garden and city hall.

We can apply to use the grant for capital maintenance or a capital improvement project.

Keep in consideration that these properties are owned by the city and therefore public to anyone.

This grant would require that any of these areas would need to continue to be open for public access.

City Council and HOA are working together to identify areas that are public accessible and not private to HOA members.

Survey Link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QYH22N3>

Park Hill Schools Winter Break is Coming!

Winter Break is December 23rd through January 2nd.
Students return to class on January 3rd.

Houston Lake residents are in the boundaries of South East Elementary School (K-5) 816-359-4360, Walden Middle School (6-8) 816-359-4240 and Park Hill South High School (9-12) 816-359-4120

As winter weather approaches verify buses, remote learning and school cancellations online at [parkhill.k12.mo.us](https://www.parkhill.k12.mo.us)

The Latest: Wagon Trail Road Construction

On Monday, Rodriguez Mechanical Contractors Inc. asked the City of Houston Lake to find a company to do the work on Wagon Trail. I called Cockrell Paving Company because they are based nearby and have been recommended by other north-land mayors.

Cockrell told me that they wouldn't be available until after November 30th. Then after that, they will start work, weather permitting. Cockrell will measure Wagon Trail this weekend and provide a quote for Rodrigues and the city. Rodrigues will only pay to pave over the ditches. Houston Lake will consider having him invoice the city to pave the complete road. To be clear, the city would only be paying for a smaller portion of the work than Rodriguez is paying for.

Cockrell is confident there are still some good days left in early December to pave. However, if the weather doesn't cooperate, Cockrell will fill the ditches with millings. That would be better than filling them with gravel.

Mayor Stone

UN-CLASSIFIED ADS

Full Page	\$20.00
Half Page	\$10.00
Quarter 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 maryjewel40@gmail.com

Mowing and Clean-up

HL is looking for an employee to mow, weed, trim and clean-up brush on a seasonal basis on public property and easements. Pay is mandated by city ordinances and equipment is provided. Contact Mayor Stone for more information.
mayor@houstonlake.gov

Holiday Drive-In Movie Nights
Vineyard Church is hosting Family Drive-In Movie nights at 12300 Arrowhead Trfwy near 169 & 435/Smithville. Go to vckc.com for more info. 12/9 Elf at 7pm and 12/16 Grinch (2018) at 7pm

Do you have a Business or Service you would like to Advertise?

Check out the Un-Classified Ad prices and list your services or business today!
Discount on annual ads paid upfront.

This Ad Space is Yours!

Email Mary Head with your ad request and check out the Un-Classified Ad prices. Discount on annual ads paid upfront.

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

James Patterson Books

Great condition for a holiday gift for you or someone else. \$5 for the lot of 7 books. Killer instinct, Unsolved, The Inn, Private #1 Suspect, 21st Birthday, Dark in Death & Leverage in Death. Contact Sarah @ 816-394-8828 (text)

Did you clean out your Holiday Decorations? Offer them here!

Email Mary Head with your ad request and check out the Un-Classified Ad prices. Discount on annual ads paid upfront.

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 816-394-8828 with Name & Address

HOA OFFICERS -

- President Pam Freese 816-726-4455
hoacommunications@venetianguardenshoa.org
- Vice President Wendy Thompson 816-225-1018
- Secretary Katherine Stockbauer 816-520-3931
kakstockbauer@yahoo.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 Sarah Schofield 816-394-8828
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 Cathy Grove
913-701-7142
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.

2023 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.

2023 Recycling Dates:

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

2023 Holidays:

January 1st New Years Day - No Change pick up will be on Wednesday January 4th

May 29th MemorialDay - Pick up changed to Thursday June 1st

July 4th Independence Day - Pick up changed to Thursday July 6th

September 4th Labor Day - Pick up changed to Thursday September 7th

November 23rd Thanksgiving - No Change pick up will be on Wednesday November 22nd

December 25th Christmas - Pick up changed to Thursday December 28th



Photo by Teena Walker-Robin

Traffic, Parking and Plows

Reminder that the speed limit within city limits is 15mph
(Section 320.030. General Speed Limit. [Ord. No. 318, 3-10-2008])

PLEASE keep vehicles clear of the roadway (no parking on the sides of roads) to allow for plows to come through in case of inclement weather.

Traffic is patrolled and enforced by the Platte County Sheriff's office.

Venetian Gardens Homes Association 2023 Dues

The 2023 HOA dues statements will be mailed January 31, 2023. The annual dues are \$450, and they will become delinquent on March 2, 2023. Late payments are charged a 10% penalty each year. Payments may be mailed to Venetian Gardens Homes Association 5417 N. Adrian Ave., Houston Lake, MO 64151, or they may be delivered by using the HOA mailbox on the front porch of City Hall. If you have questions, you may contact the Treasurer, Susan Hodges at 816.786.2377, or email her athodges.susan@outlook.com.

Letter from the VGHA President

I'd like to thank everyone who voted for me to be President of VGHOA, your confidence in me is humbling. Katherine Stockbauer has volunteered to step in as Secretary, for a one year term. We are so excited to have her on the board.

The board has been busy working and we hope you will be able to attend our December 14 Meeting, 7pm at City Hall. We will have cookies and coffee available. If you are unable to attend in person, but would like to come via video or call in, please contact me at 816-726-4455.

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season.

Pam Freese

City of Houston Lake City Council Final Meeting Minutes - October 17, 2022

Mayor Stone opened the meeting at 7:32pm Roll Call: Present - Mayor Chuck Stone, Alderwoman Teena Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Annemarie Murphy, Alderwoman Ashly Fuglestad (virtually), Alderwoman Sarah Farsace.

Motion to Approve the Agenda for October 17, 2022: 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Ney - None; Abstain- None Motion Passed

Motion to Approve the minutes from September 12, 2022: 1st Motion Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye- Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney - None; Abstain - None Motion Passed

Emergency Management:

Fire Department - No report given, no one available to attend

Sheriff Report - Report emailed, in meeting packet, no sheriff available to attend 1 call for a civil matter.

Codes Report - presented by Cathy Grove, Codes Enforcement Officer: in September Staff wrote 1 violation for an inoperable vehicle. 4 August violations were abated. Recognized 5457 N. Adrian for their improvements with a new wall. It looks wonderful on that corner and really works well with the gardens. I understand that the original wall was replaced because it was hit by a car, but the choice of replacement looks fantastic, and I am sure that it offers better protection to that corner.

Venetian Gardens HomeOwners Association Report - Meeting will be October 22, 2022 1:00pm

Public Discussion -

Wendy Thompson - City directory was last printed in 2013 and she would like to see the community have another directory. The layout was good, it provided emergency information and service providers for residents. The alpha and by street was good for finding your neighbors. It was good to have the letter from the city and the HOA so residents know who handled what. Council noted that volunteers are already working on a new directory, it will take time to find out the residents who do and don't want their information included.

Permits

No Burn Permits to approve

No Building Permits to approve

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

Motion to approve Resolution Number 10.17.2022 - 1st Motion Alderwoman Murphy, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Walker-Robin; Ney - None; Abstain - None Motion Passed

Old Business

Spillway Bridge: Resolution to approve was tabled until an estimate could be put together and submitted to council.

New Business

Motion for Resolution to put a moratorium on new short-term rental: 1st Motion Alderwoman Walker-Robin, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Farsace; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace; Ney - None; Abstain - None Motion Passed

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Motion Alderwoman Farsace, 2nd Motion Alderwoman Murphy; Vote: Aye - Alderwoman Fuglestad, Alderwoman Farsace, Alderwoman Walker-Robin, Alderwoman Murphy; Ney - None; Abstain - None Motion Passed Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Final Minutes approved 11/21/2022

Sarah Schofield, City Clerk

City News

The City Council of Houston Lake met on November 21st for the meeting that was postponed from November 14th.

Alderman Sarah Farsace brought it to the council's attention that there is an area on Edgewater that was paved over and is already breaking apart. The area was filled in with concrete then milled over. That concrete was broken up and then paved over. She has requested that the paving company be brought back out to look at the area and plan on fixing it. It was also nice to see that some of the trees had been trimmed. Sharron Delafuente, resident, said that she saw it was Arbor Masters that came through. Mayor Stone said it was paid from the Fire Suppression Fund so that emergency vehicles could get through easier.

Alderman Annemarie Murphy has been working with multiple sign companies to get the one city sign on Adrian and 56th Street replaced with a replica of the old sign to match the other two. She has also been getting quotes to have three new signs made so that they all match, are updated and of a material that would last the city a long time. Mayor Chuck Stone requested that the sign information be added to next month's agenda.

Alderman Murphy also mentioned that she found a grant or a native wildflower program. Mayor Stone mentioned that it might be nice to have the wildflowers planted in

Park. Other cities have done similar programs and it saves the cost of mowing. Pam Freese, VGHA President, asked that the information be sent to HOA as well to see if it would cover native water vegetation for the lake.

Alderman Ashley Fuglestad has been working on the website with Alderman Teena Walker-Robin and City Clerk Sarah Schofield to add city documents, meeting minutes, codes, etc. to the website so they are accessible for residents. She would also like to thank Teena for all her work and knowledge in getting this done.

As many city and HOA officials work full time jobs as well as serving the city, this will make it easier for residents to use the required forms, find the ordinances they need and contact information for the city and HOA.

Bobbi Baker-Hughes, resident, asked if the houstonlake.net website was still active. It is and is redirected to the houstonlake.gov website. The city will keep the .net website for a while longer to allow residents to bookmark the new site and for the HOA to redirect the information they need to their website. Teena is working on connecting the .et pages to the coordinating .gov pages.

Mayor Chuck Stone will be adding an ordinance to next month's agenda to change the pay scale for some of the positions within the city. The city has received a few applications for the lawn mowing position, however the pay rate is set at \$13 per hour by city ordinance. He says that it has been

difficult to find someone good to take the position at that pay rate.

Mayor Stone has rescinded his nomination of Laura Barlow for the Planning and Zoning commission and will take the position himself. This decision was made because she and Mayor Stone have lived together for a number of years and it may be viewed as a conflict for him and the commission.

Free Speech vs. Trolling

Sarah Schofield

I am all about Free Speech. Look what the value of information, the ability and willingness to speak and share with the community, a true grassroots effort from a few residents, did to bring about the highest turnout in years for an HOA vote on regulations and then an election. The city Facebook page is for all residents to find information and to share with their neighbors. Recently it has become a place for residents to express their anger and desire for answers from city officials. Residents are encouraged to reach out to city officials, HOA officers and attend city and HOA meetings to ask their questions, receive information and help the city become a better city for everyone.

At this time, the FB page is an open forum. The city clerk will be looking into ways to keep the page open to citizens and also monitor speech and posts so that we all can live a positive and productive life with our neighbors.

Our words can be powerful. Let's use them to improve Houston Lake.



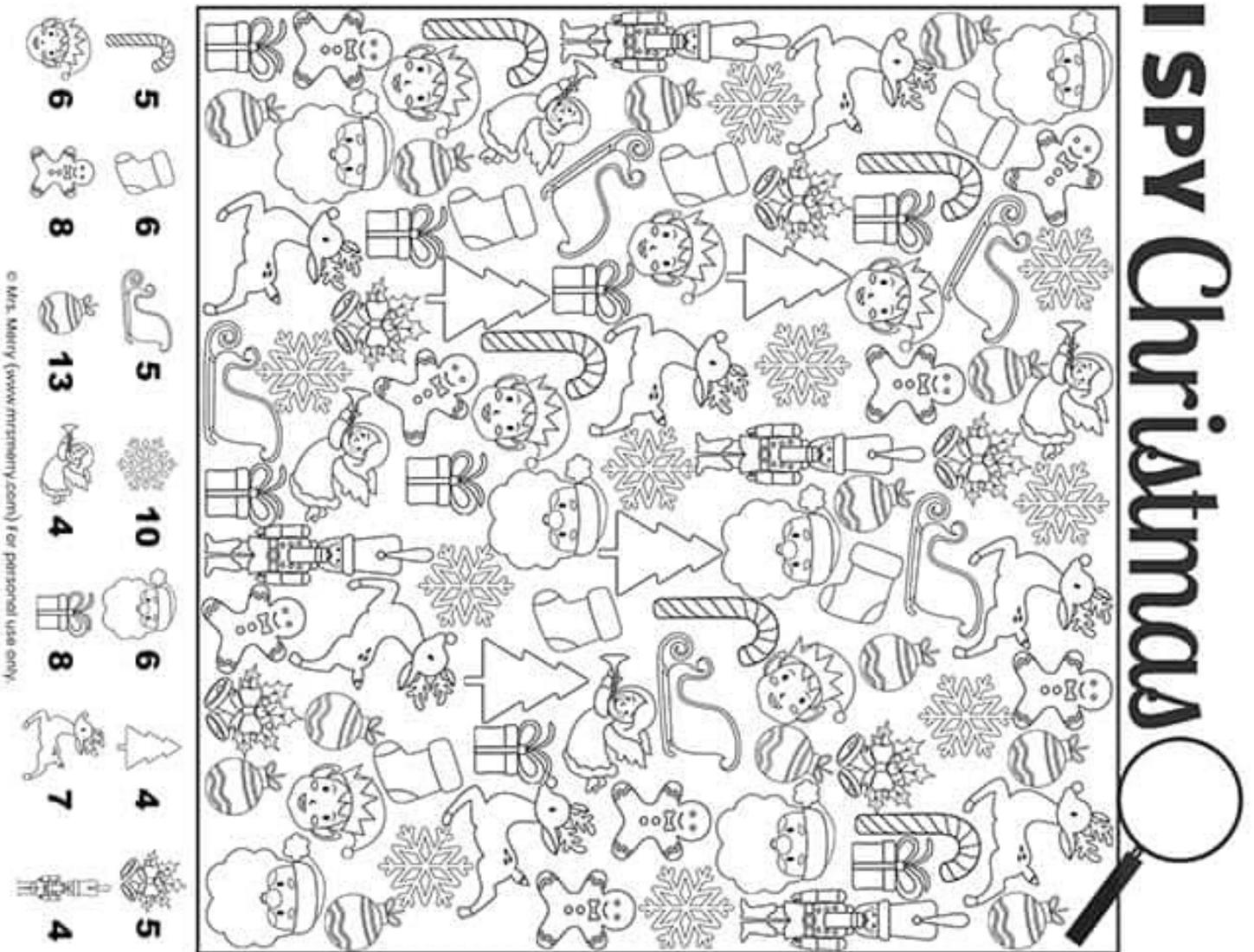
Photo by Maria Lindsey
on Pexels.com

Do you enjoy celebrating all things?
Building community? Organizing events?

The City of Houston Lake is looking for out of the box thinkers who enjoy community building. The need goes on through out the year and include *but not limited to* Yuletide celebration, Fourth of July, picnics, and other neighborhood events. Please consider donating your time and talent.

Thank you to Carolyn Carey, Lisa Shepard & Victoria Wilson for volunteering.

If you would like to volunteer contact Teena Walker-Robin



The Houston Laker is published in partnership with Venetian Gardens Home Association and the City of Houston Lake. Residents are welcome to submit letters to the editor, articles and photo to maryjewel40@gmail.com or sarah.schofieldg220@gmail.com. We are all thankful for our neighbors and residents efforts to make Houston Lake the best city in the Northland!

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