

# HOUSTON LAKER

SINCE MARCH 1957 - EDITION #66

### CITY COUNCIL

The September City Council meeting will be Monday, September 11th at City Hall.

Meeting Minutes for July were not available at the time of print of the La

### VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOC

Next Meeting is Wednesday, September 20th at 6pm.

The 2024 Budget will be discussed. The Annual Meeting will be Saturday, October 1st at 1pm.

### WATER SAMPLE RESULTS

Test #20821033-001  
Season's End - DOCK  
8/21/23 9:41 AM  
E.coli 66 MPN/100ml  
8/22/2023

**SAFE to SWIM!**



PHOTO: SARAH SCHOFIELD

## NO RELIEF FROM THE STORMS

Living on a lake, weather, rainfall and rising water go hand in hand. Living downhill means that the water flows faster and higher than other areas around the city. The culverts and ditches have not been cleaned out since before the water and gas lines were replaced by Missouri American Water and Spire. Residents have commented and requested for more than a year to have the ditches and culverts cleaned out and maintained. Homeowners have experienced flooding inside their homes in part to the storm water not being directed properly.

Despite research, presentations meetings and conversations the city has not made any changes or progress to help residents.

If you have a culvert or a ditch near or on your property that needs to be cleaned out, contact Mayor Stone or your alderwoman.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden is getting ready for Fall and Winter. Marsha Duncan has included a budget for the year in review. Don't forget to visit the HOUSTON LAKE MISSOURI Community Garden on Facebook

## ARTS CIRCLE

Houston Lake Arts Circle welcomes all artists to join and submit their art for display. Contact Jean Anderson for more info. [blue.jean@me.com](mailto:blue.jean@me.com)

## 2023 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.

### 2023 Recycling Dates (2nd Wednesday):

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

## 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 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 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 City of Houston Lake**  
**Community Garden Financial Statement**

Thanks to all in the community that helped with the garden. And thanks for your time, care and commitment. Thank you!

Expenditures this spring came to \$122.25. This was paid from cash donations.

Our cash on hand is \$41.00 and will be used in next spring's plantings.

Please see the items below ... the gardens assets that will be used for several years to come.

Thanks again for all your help and enjoy the fresh garden veggies!

Respectfully,

**Angela Gay**

**Treasurer – Houston Lake Community Garden**

**Assets – All donated**

**Hand painted Resin Mushroom seat**

**New fencing**

**12 tomato cages**

**Fertilizer sprayer – 2 gal**

**Seed Starter kit – 6 trays of 12 each with grow lights**

**Weed cover – 200 feet remaining (90 feet is needed to cover all 3 beds)**

**2 soaker hoses**

**Water timer**

**A sundry of seed packets and bulk seed to be used for next season**

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION

Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 10, 2023 – 6:00 PM Central Time

Houston Lake, MO City Hall

The meeting of the Venetian Gardens Homes Association (VGHA) Oversight Committee was called to order by Bobbi Baker-Hughes at 6:03 PM.

Bobbi welcomed all to the meeting. Those in attendance were Bobbi Baker-Hughes, Chair; Wendy Thompson, VGHA Board Representative; Mike Hallauer, Kay Honeycutt, and Lisa Shepard.

The minutes from the July 13, 2023, meeting were approved.

VGHA Oversight Committee members, Mike Hallauer and Lisa Shepard met with members of the VGHA Board to present Bylaws Draft #8 for their review and consideration. All comments have been reviewed. We will continue to review, edit, and amend the draft in preparation for our next meeting with the VGHA board.

The next meeting of the committee will be held the second Thursday evening in September 2023, at 6:00 PM. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kay Honeycutt

# Houston Lake

**Brenner's house was in Riverside but some of their land like Houston Lake and Brenner Ridge was in Platte County not in Riverside.**



The history of this community goes back to the eighteen hundreds. The Brenner family purchased some of the farm land from Keller family and reportedly dammed up the jumping Branch Creek to make a homemade farm pond where they could water their cattle. The land where Houston Lake now exist was basically pasture and farm land before Charles and Emma Houston purchased the land to build Lake Venetia on from Alma Brenner Hauetter on September 10, 1928. The name Lake Venetia was recorded with the county for this site but according to Louie Brenner there was another lake in this area by the same name so it was eventually changed to the Village of Houston Lake.

The dam had washed out numerous times, so Mr. Houston hired an engineering firm out of Kansas City, Missouri to design a new one. A masonry core-well starting at bedrock was run the entire length of the dam to within two feet of the top of the fill dirt. This was provided as a special precaution to help stabilize the dam, so it would never was out again. When the dam was built in 1934 all of the rock was hauled in from the hill side, straight east of where the spill-way is today. The rock was called Riff Raff. The existing dam has been in place for eighty-nine years.

The majority of the construction work was done with mules, horses, wagons, plus a lot of man hours with picks and shovels. A big tent was set up below the dam where they kept mules and horses when they weren't working. Ten to fifteen wagons were used to build the dam and at least forty mules and horses.

Mr. Houston plotted the Lake and set up a Homes Association. He then deeded the Lake to the Venetian Gardens Homes Association on June 4, 1946. Before Houston Lake became a 4 class City on November 7, 1960, it was incorporated as the Village of Houston Lake on February 26, 1955.

## **THERE IS NO COMMUNITY PROJECT FAIRY! IT TAKES VOLUNTEERS!**

By Katherine Stockbauer, as Remembered by Linda Charles

Let's go back in time.

Our City Hall was not delivered by the City Building Fairy. As you probably know, The Venetian Gardens Homes Association was incorporated in June of 1946, many years before the existence of the Village of Houston Lake, later incorporated as the City of Houston Lake. Prior to that, we didn't have street names and the U.S. Post Office considered us to be a rural route of Parkville, MO. Prior to having our Community Center (now City Hall,) Venetian Gardens Homes Association Annual Meetings and Elections were held at rented spaces nearby and Board meetings were held at residential homes. After the City of Houston Lake Incorporated in 1960, elections were held at the Houston residence. At this time the bridge over the dam was the only way in and out for South Side residents. The City and the Homes Association worked together to find solutions for this and other problems.

In 1968, working together, the Homes Association, under Raymond "Shorty" Burwell President, donated the land upon which to build a Community Center (now City Hall) and the City, under Mayor Frank Edward "Ted" Barnes, would cover expenses for the material needed. At this time, they realized that the creek had to be rerouted to join the creek behind the Barnes residence (at silt pond) to facilitate the Building Lot for the Community Center. Shorty Burwell was appointed as the Construction Superintendent (volunteer/unpaid) and was responsible for overseeing the project. They trenched the area rerouting the creek (on the south side now behind the silt pond.) Shorty worked for the railroad and was able to obtain a donated railroad oil tanker (see pic). They then cut off both ends to size and manually forced it into position, creating the culvert under the bridge, we have now! (see pic) All of this work was by volunteers of this community!



The Community Center (now City Hall) was built with all volunteer labor from this community. It was to be large enough for all community meetings and elections, (Fed, State and Local) have a Homes Association office, a City office, a kitchen for Homes Association pot luck feasts to serve the community and a basement suitable for shelter from tornados. The Homes Association Office was later converted to a supply closet and bathroom. Benches for seating were built and Linda and Gene Charles prompted their son, Gary Charles of The Boy Scouts of America, to get involved and he varnished the benches and cleaned up the building construction mess, earning his Eagle Scout Badge for community service and making ready the Community Center (now City Hall) for business!

No, the City Building Fairy did not deliver our Community Center (now City Hall), it was all Volunteer Work from and of our great HOA and City community!



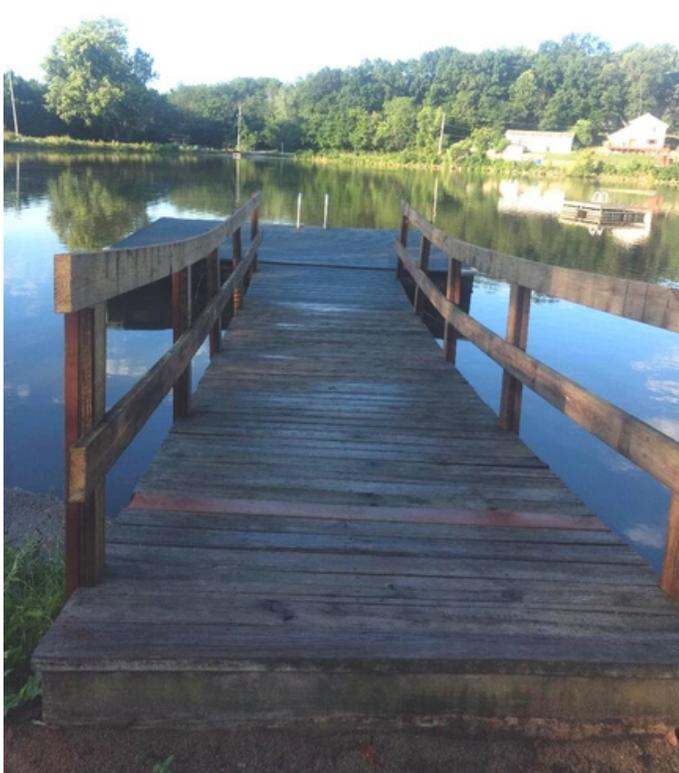
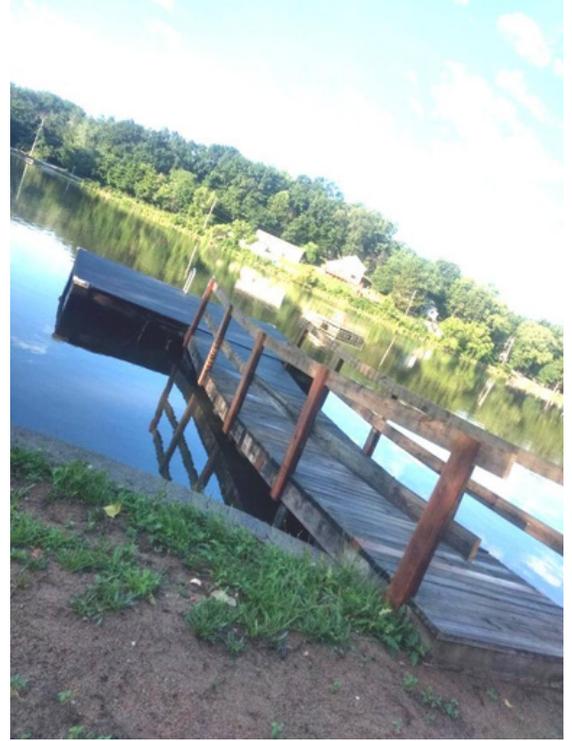
**892 ACR-E  
Drainage Area**



# NEW DOUBLE RAILS AT SWIM BEACH DOCK RAMP

Submitted by Katherine Stockbauer

Goeden Docks installed the new double rails on the ramp! I reaffixed my push broom, so that it is there for others to clear off the goose poop from the ramp and dock. I have been hosing off the dock, ramp, sidewalks and shelter floor, trying to keep it nice for all of our families. Pictures



Here is how I like to think that my dad played a wee part in developing of the atomic bomb. We moved from Waukesha, Wisconsin on Christmas Eve of 1936 to a 44 acre farm where my dad grew up in north eastern Tennessee. I was 6 at the time. Up to that point my dad had made toys for us but after that I have made my own toys with tools that I got for Christmas. We lived without electricity for @ 5 years-(until Dec 18, 1941), had no indoor plumbing, had pumped water to carry in the house (during freezing temps we had to heat water to thaw out the pump) and were entertained by a battery powered radio that took 3 different size batteries, We slept on homemade straw mattresses. At times we ordered 100 baby chickens that were delivered in a 4 compartment box by the rural post office. We cooked on a wood stove and heated with a wood burning fireplace but had no heat at all over the night (one of my daily chores was to keep a supply of wood for each of those). From time to time we raised a patch of cotton for the quilts that mom liked to make. Then once in a while we raised broom corn to have our brooms made. We sometimes raised popcorn that my dad sold some to a movie theater in town. Our money crop was tobacco. I have missed many lunches from working in it on a hot day when I had to bend down between the rows to pick off the hornworms and remove suckers-the smell killed my appetite. The big corporations have now bought out the allotments of small farmers such as ours. Each farm was allotted so much acreage to grow. The way we raised tobacco, it was @ a 12 month chore. After finishing grade school I had a job with the Agricultural Adjustment Association to measure each farm's planting with a 66' chain marked in tenths and plotted it on graph paper at a dollar farm. That is just a glimpse of our country living.

A two room school named *High Point* was within sight of our front porch on the opposite corner of our mailbox but my dad didn't get to finish there because his dad kept him out of school named to work on the farm. My mom did a bit better but high school wasn't available to her. I've heard her say many times that she would give her interest in heaven to get to go to high school. She and some other ladies were tutored by a teacher in some high school subjects. During the four years of my high school I had to get up at 4:30 AM so that I could fire up the wood cook stove. My dad would call me and if I didn't get up timely he would shoot me in the face with a water pistol. When I got the stove hot I would call my mom and she cooked breakfast for me so I could catch then school bus at 6 AM about ¼ mile away. So I missed out on a lot of sleep when I needed it most. Anyway, when the atomic energy facility was being built at Oakridge, Tennessee my dad got a job there as a carpenter. He drove a 1933 Chevrolet 80 miles back and forth to get there. That wasn't an easy task back then because tires were of poor quality due to the war I think they were rationed and not easy to obtain. His car had a spare tire in each front fender well. Lots of times both spare tires were needed to get from here to there. I recall him coming home one weekend and saying that they-whoever they were, had figured for days with slide rules trying to determine the angle to cut the rafters on a building. He did some figuring with the booklet that came with his rafter square. Here is what my mom told me: He went back to work on Monday and cut a rafter that fit. He was told to put his tools away and he would be paid more money to supervise the construction. He said with his limited education he didn't want that responsibility. This is not to say that no one would figure out the angle to cut the rafters but at that point no one had. I wrote a similar letter to the editor of the *Landmark* in response to a story about the atomic energy scientists alumni of Park University who had a hand in developing the atomic bomb. I apologized for comparing my uneducated dad with those scientists. I only meant it as a personal letter saying that she might have a passing interest in my story. To my surprise it was published verbatim in the *Landmark*.

"Good" Charles

# 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 two vacancies on the Homes Association Board to fill at the Annual October Meeting. Two 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](mailto:hodges.susan@outlook.com) or call her @ 816.786.2377. 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 at [hodges.susan@outlook.com](mailto:hodges.susan@outlook.com) and offer your services. It would be greatly appreciated.

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Grey Coverage

Enhancing the Grey

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Best wishes to you,  
Marlene