

Houston Laker

Since March 1957 – Edition 68

January 2026 issue



Jennifer Heese sworn in as Newest
Houston Lake Alderman at the
December 11, 2025 City Council Meeting.

“Picture from left to right
Mayor Sarah Schofield,
Alderman Jennifer Heese,
and City Clerk Lisa Shepard.”



2026 TRASH & RECYCLING

DATES

City Trash and Recycling Service 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.

One Trash bin and one Recycling bin is picked up every Wednesday. (If you require more than one trash bin and/or more than one recycling bin, you need to contact Republic Services directly at 816-254-1470 to set up any additional service you require for your residence.)

They need to be at the curb/edge of street by 6am. Place carts 1 foot from the curb/edge of the street. Leave room for the arm of the truck to pick up and return the receptacles without causing damage to vehicles, fences, etc. **Place the cart at least 5 feet from any object – like a car, tree, pole, fire hydrant, mailbox, electrical box, or cable box – so the automated arm can reach your cart.**

Trash & Recycling pickup is every Wednesday.

Please maintain this same distance of 5 feet between recycling and waste carts.

Remember only one of each bin is allowed.

A \$10.00 charge per bin, per month, if you need additional bins.

2026 Holidays:

January 1 New Years Day
NO Change pickup will be on Wednesday December 31st

May 25 Memorial Day –
Pick up Changed to Thursday May 28th.

July 4 Independence Day – No
Change pick up will be on Wednesday July 1st.

September 7 Labor Day –
Pick up changed to Thursday September 9th

November 26 Thanksgiving
Day –No Change pick up will be on Wednesday November 25th

December 25 Christmas Day –
No Change pickup will be on Wednesday December 23rd

Houston Lake Cookbook

1st and 2nd Edition of the Houston Lake Cookbooks is available for \$3.00 each. Houston Lake History Book = 77 pages of the History of Houston Lake for \$5.00 each.

Email Mary Head at maryjewel40@gmail.com
or call (816) 741-5639

Lake Life *January 2026* *Events*

Trash and Recycling pick up is every Wednesday

1 – Happy New Year

19 – NO = VGHA meeting

21 – City of Houston Lake Meeting – City Hall 6:30pm
(**note:** meeting changed from 2nd to 3rd Wednesday in Jan.).

Houston Lake City Officials

City Hall – (816) 741-0644

Mayor – Sarah Schofield
mayor@houstonlake.gov

City Clerk – Lisa A. Shepard
cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

City Collector – Kathryn Kreider
citycollector@houstonlake.gov

City Treasurer – Kay Honeycutt
khoneycutt@houstonlake.gov

Custodian of Records –
cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

Board of Aldermen

Mayor Pro Tem - Sarah Loring
sloring@houstonlake.gov

Jesse Beshears
jbeshears@houstonlake.gov

Teresa Olson
tolson@houstonlake.gov

Jennifer Heese
jheese@houstonlake.gov

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

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

Venetian Gardens Homes

Association Officers

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

Vice President/Treasurer/Lake Tags -
Don Miller = (918) 633-4109
drmiller5@icloud.com

Secretary – Monica Beshears
(573) 356-4118
weety30@gmail.com

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

Board Member at Large – Josh Williams
(816) 560-6433
jwil6872@gmail.com

**In case of a Police, Fire, or Medical
Emergency – Call 911**

**Police Non-Emergency & Animal
Control Platte County Sheriff
(816) 858-3521**

**Fire Non-Emergency Riverside Fire
Department (816) 372-9024**

**Grinder Pump Haynes Equipment
Services (913) 782-5013**



“Houston Lake Ice”
is not thick enough to skate
on. Please do not get out
on the ice.

The use of Houston Lake is at your own risk. Just as in the summer - swimming, skating, playing, etc. - being on the frozen lake during winter is **AT YOUR OWN RISK**. Please use caution with your family, guests, and pets if you decide to go out 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 homeowner's personal expense. Venetian Gardens Homes Association and/or the City of Houston Lake are not to be held responsible.

ANNUAL ASSOCIATION DUES

Annual Venetian Gardens Homes Association dues are **\$450.00**. The annual dues statements will be mailed out on January 30, 2026 (**note**: you are welcome to pay your dues before you receive your statement). Dues will become delinquent on **March 1, 2026** and will be charged a 10% penalty each year. Payments can be mailed or placed in the black lock box marked “HOA” next the the front door of City Hall. If mailed, please mail to:

Venetian Gardens Homes Association
5417 N Adrian
Houston Lake, MO 64151

If you have any questions, please contact VGHA Treasurer, Don Miller:
phone **(918) 633-4109** or email **drmiller5@icloud.com**

IMPORTANT GEESE AND BIRD NOTICE

The Missouri Department of Conservation has confirmed Houston Lake has had several geese die of Avian Flu. If you see a dead goose or bird, please contact Tyler Besaw, Conservation Agent at: Office 816-622-0900, Cell: 816-835-6086 or email at tyler.besaw@mdc.mo.gov.

Please refrain from touching or moving the birds yourself to help prevent the spread to other animals or a jump to a human.

Thank you for helping keep the wildlife around the lake healthy.

Pam Freese
VGHA President

SHORT TERM RENTALS IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE

Council and residents who attended the December City Council meeting began discussions on regulating Short Term Rentals in the City of Houston Lake. This is where we are starting from. Please contact us with your questions and concerns. This will be an agenda item at the January City Council meeting.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schofield, Mayor

OWNING PROPERTY AND UTILIZING IT AS A SHORT-TERM RENTAL IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE

The City of Houston Lake defines a short-term rental (STR) as the rental of property, a dwelling unit or a portion thereof for a period of less than 30 consecutive days. Typically, these properties are advertised on apps like Airbnb and VRBO. .

Short-Term Rental Permits

The City of Houston Lake allows residents to utilize qualifying residential properties as a short-term rental with an approved Short-Term Rental Permit.

GENERAL RULES & REQUIREMENTS

- Registrant must be the property owner and provide proof of ownership by presenting the following:
 - Paid property tax receipt from Platte County from the current or previous year
*not a tax bill, unpaid
 - Paid utility bill current from within the last 3 months
 - Property Deed, Title Deed or Mortgage Documents
 - Homeowners Insurance
 - Unexpired state issued photo ID such as a driver's license or current/valid passport
- A valid, unexpired short-term rental registration is required to legally operate a short-term rental property within the City of Kansas City, Missouri.
- Pay a flat registration fee of \$200, increasing annually based on Consumer Price Index
- STRs registration is non-transferable
- Recordkeeping is required for complaints received and other transaction information
- 1-YEAR DEREGISTRATION for any STR in VIOLATION of CITY CODE
- 3-YEAR DEREGISTRATION for (a) 3+ CONVICTIONS under this Code, state, or federal law; and (b) finding that STR presents a present and PERVASIVE THREAT to or DISREGARD for PUBLIC HEALTH and SAFETY –
- Booking platforms are required to REMOVE any UNREGISTERED or DEREGISTERED STRs
- Each registration issued shall expire at the end of its registration period (1-year) and shall be subject to renewal annually. Renewal registration, or reregistration, will be accepted beginning 30 days before the end of the previous registration period.
- Short-term rentals operating without a registration are subject to ordinance violations and fines ranging from \$200 to \$1,000. Each day a short-term rental operates without approval can be a separate violation.
- On a monthly basis, submit tourism/guest room tax form to the City
- May not be rented as reception, party, meeting or similar space open to non-resident guests.
- No exterior evidence that property is being utilized as an RDR, including signage.
- Complaints or issues received by host must be resolved by host.
- Permits may be suspended or revoked when STR fails to meet or uphold any standards or other provisions of the City of Houston Lake Municipal Code.

- All short-term rentals are to be charged the five percent (5%) Tourism Tax – Guest Room Tax paid by transient guests of hotels, motels, bed and breakfast inns, and other short-term rental spaces of similar use.
- Must be in good standing with the Venetian Gardens Homes Association, current and up to date with dues.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Completed application form
- Acknowledgement of Ordinance Compliance
 - Signature confirming the applicant will meet all requirements

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Application Submission

- a. Applicants must submit a complete application to the City Council via mail or delivery to City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151:
 - Completed Short-Term Rental Application
 - Signed acknowledgement of ordinance compliance
 - Proof of ownership of property

2. Initial Review (within 5 business days)

- a. City Council and/or City Official will check for application completeness and compliance with the submittal checklist.

3. Property Eligibility

- a. Confirm the property has requirements, as in the requirements of the ordinance.
- b. Verify ownership
- c. Current property taxes are paid through Platte County
- d. Proof of home owners insurance
- e. Letter of Good Standing with the Venetian Gardens Homes Association

4. Final Determination (within 10 business days)

- If approved, the staff issues a non-transferable approved application and notifies the applicant
- If denied, staff provides a written explanation with guidance on how to resolve deficiencies if possible.

5. Post Approval

- a. The permit may be subject to review by City Council, City Official, or Codes Enforcement Officer at any time.
- b. Violations may result in permit revocation or other enforcement actions.

Applications can be emailed to: city-council@houstonlake.gov

RECORDKEEPING

All applications and supplemental materials will be retained digitally by the City Clerk and/or Codes Enforcement.

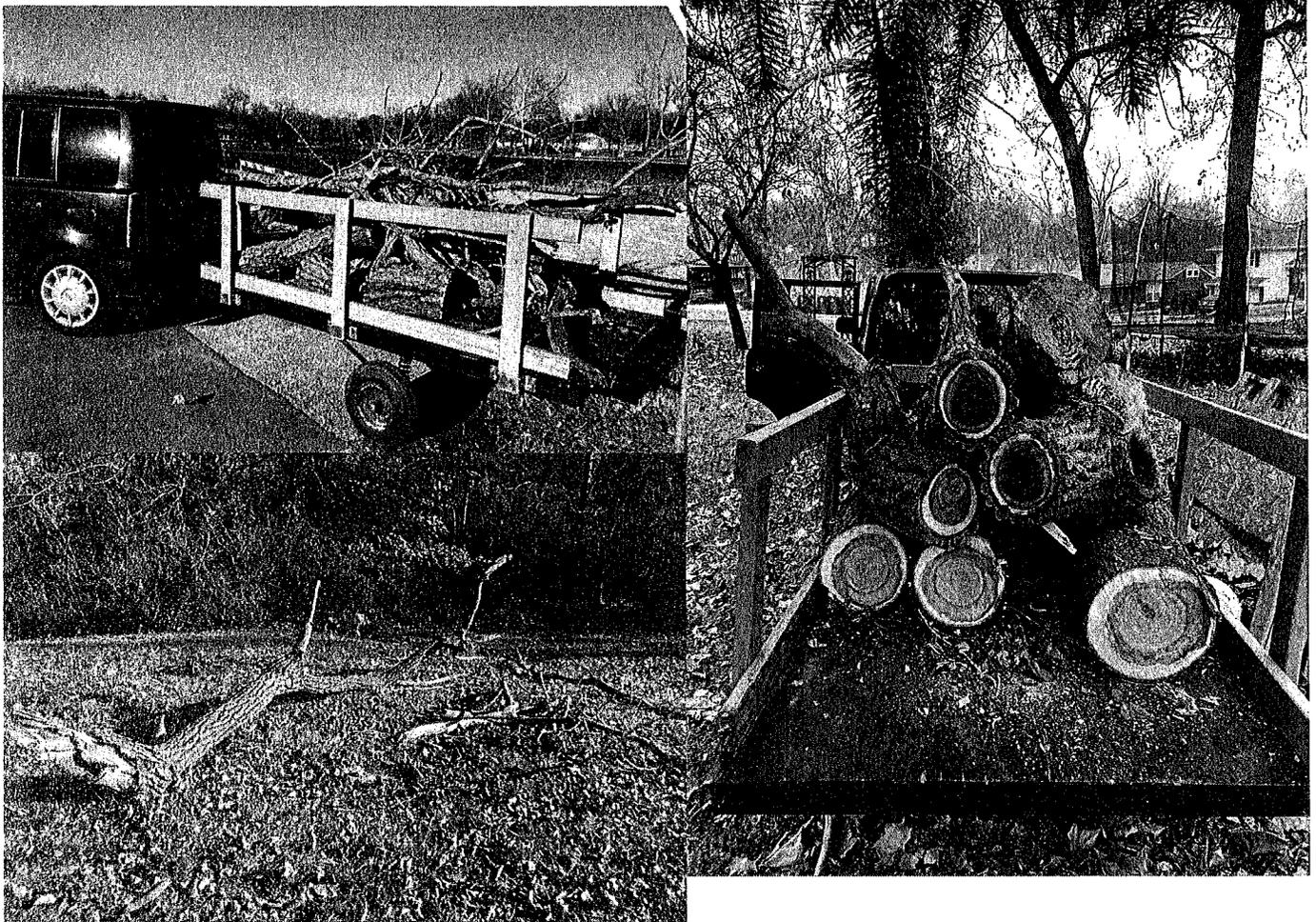
INSPECTION & ENFORCEMENT

City Council, City Official, or Codes Enforcement Officer may inspect properties as needed. Failure to comply with the permit or city ordinance may result in revocation or enforcement action.

For enforcement questions, contact city-council@houstonlake.gov, codesenforcement@houstonlake.gov or city hall at 816-741-0644



BIG THANK YOU to Brendan Brousseau for taking down and removing the TREE at Mayor's Park! We appreciate you.



**Also another tree that
Brendan took down on
VGHA property.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.**



Houston Lake Gardeners!

I recently heard about an organic product that might be worth trying on our difficult soil. Pelletized Wool. It all started when I stumbled upon a youtube video,

https://youtu.be/hDuLN3vof6I?si=1QZeM_r4tvspFanm Using Organic Wool Waste to Improve Degraded Land.

Back in the day, I used to spin wool and weave so this caught my attention.

Pelletized wool, or wool pellets, are a natural, slow-release organic fertilizer and soil amendment made from processed sheep wool, offering benefits like improved water retention (holding up to 20x their weight in water), soil aeration, and gradual nutrient release (high in nitrogen, calcium, etc.) for plants, while also deterring slugs and minimizing watering needs. They're made by shredding and heat-pelletizing raw or waste wool, making it easier to apply as a soil amendment in gardens and pots, providing nutrients and enhancing soil health.

It appears to have been tested in Australia, and is used by a lot of organic farmers and gardeners. It appears to be on the rise in California, Colorado, Utah, and on the East Coast. Cost is a consideration - a 1 lb. bag covers approximately 30 square feet, which is a 4'x8' raised bed. Generally, it runs about \$16-20 a pound, with shipping. Buying in bulk would cut that down. Any one who has knowledge or wants to research this product, please do, and we can discuss it at our 2026 planning meeting!

Kathryn Kreider

Community Garden Update

I'm finely free enough to get back to the garden. It's been a long 3 months of raising kittens but it was so worth every minute.

I want to thank all of you for jumping in and making 2025's Community Garden a success. I am truly grateful for that.

We're going to start the next year with a Garden meeting, Saturday January 24th, 2026 at Minskys 12pm. Please RSVP as I need to know how many will attend (and of course what kind of pizza you like).

One of the topics of discussion will be pelletized wool used in gardens. Kathryn Kreider discovered an article describing the different ways to use it.
Very interesting.

Kitty Update:

This has been quite an experience...overwhelming at times but full of daily smiles and love. I have adopted out 2 of the kittens with 3 remaining and all are males. Two of the three have been spoken for. I'm adopting one and the mama. His name is Petie.

They have graduated from squirt bottle 101 and understand the word "no". They have an occasional relapse, so a squirt bottle is recommended. They get along perfectly with our dog and all the other kitties we have. They are amazingly civilized.

Each kitten adopted will be spayed or neutered when the time comes and paid for by myself. I've already scheduled Mama for her surgery on the 9th of January.

If anyone is interested in adopting the last kitty, please let me know. I'm going to miss them tremendously. It really has been a joy.

Marsha Duncan
816-419-5051
Call or text please

FYI - In Case You Wish to Burn Anything in Your Yard!

CITY OF
HOUSTON LAKE

STATE OF
MISSOURI

BILL NO. 031925

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 230.025 OPEN BURNING RESTRICTIONS AND CREATING SECTION 800, RECREATIONAL FIRE ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderman of the City of Houston Lake, Missouri, have determined that it is in the best interest of the residents of the City to repeal Section 230.025 Open Burning Restrictions, in order to eliminate the need for residents to submit burn permits annually.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:

1. Section 230.025 Open Burning Restrictions of the Houston Lake Code, is hereby repealed.
2. A new section of the Houston Lake Code titled RECREATIONAL FIRE ORDINANCE, is hereby enacted as follows:

Houston Lake Recreational Fire Ordinance.

Section 800.010. Definitions.

As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them:

- a. "Recreational Fire", a fire used for cooking, warmth, or recreational enjoyment in an outdoor fire pit or fireplace, which is not used for disposal of waste or refuse.
- b. "Fire Pit/Fireplace", a device used for containing an outdoor fire, including fire pits, fire bowls, chimineas, and other similar structures.

Section 800.020. Recreational Fire Requirements

- a. The fire pit or outdoor fireplace shall not exceed 36 inches in width.
- b. The fire pit or fireplace shall be specifically designed for outdoor use and built to contain flames and embers safely. The fire pit or fireplace shall have a proper fireproof base (such as stone, metal, or fire-resistant materials) to prevent the fire from spreading to the surrounding area.

c. The fire pit or fireplace shall be made from non-combustible materials like steel, cast iron, brick, or stone. The structure shall naturally control flame spread, and include a protective barrier (such as a screen or lid) to contain flying embers.

Section 800.030. Location and Safety Zones

a. Clearance from Combustible Materials. The fire pit or fireplace shall be placed at least 15 feet away from any combustible materials, including but not limited to: wooden decks, fences, sheds, trees, bushes, or shrubs with dry leaves or pine needles, furniture made of wood, or other flammable materials.

b. Surface Stability. The fire pit shall be placed on a flat, stable surface to prevent tipping. The fire pit shall not be placed directly on grass. Stone, brick, or other stable materials shall be used to create a foundation.

Section 800.040. Fuel and Materials for Burning

a. Allowed Fuels. Only dry, seasoned wood shall be burned. This includes small branches and twigs from trees that have been pruned or trimmed, as long as they fit comfortably within the fire pit.

b. Prohibited Fuels. The following materials shall not be burned: trash, including plastic, paper, and chemicals, yard waste such as leaves or large branches that cannot fit within the fire pit, pressure-treated wood, painted wood, or wood with chemical finishes.

Section 800.050. Supervision and Fire Safety

a. Supervision. Constant supervision of the fire is required by an adult. The fire shall never be left unattended at any time while burning.

b. Fire Extinguishing Equipment. An extinguishing agent shall be kept nearby. Acceptable extinguishing agents are: an operable garden hose with water, a bucket of sand, a fire extinguisher rated for outdoor use (Class ABC), a shovel and dirt to smother the fire.

c. Duration of Use. The fire shall be completely extinguished before leaving it unattended by an adult. All embers shall be fully extinguished, and the area shall no longer be hot.

Section 800.060. Fire Size and Control

a. Fire Size. The fire shall remain small and manageable. Excessive flames and heat shall not occur. Only appropriate-sized logs for the fire pit shall be used, and the amount of wood added to the fire shall be regulated.

b. Wind Conditions. A fire shall not be ignited when wind gusts exceed 15 mph.

c. Flame Height. The flame height shall not exceed the height of the walls or screen of the fire pit. Loose materials (e.g., leaves, twigs) shall be kept away from the flames at all times.

Section 800.070. Extinguishing the Fire

a. Dousing the Fire. When extinguishing the fire, the fire shall be completely extinguished. If using water to extinguish the flames, water shall be poured evenly and slowly over the fire to saturate the entire pile of embers. If using sand to extinguish the flames, embers shall be buried with the same and then stirred to ensure full coverage.

b. Checking for Heat. The area surrounding the fire pit shall be checked for residual heat. Feel the ground around the fire to ensure it has fully cooled before leaving the site.

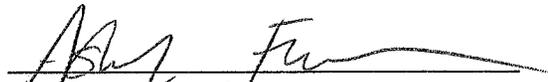
Section 800.080. Violations and Penalties

a. Any violation of this Section will be subject to penalties as outlined in the City of Houston Lake Municipal Code. Violations may include fines, cessation of the fire, or other actions as determined by the City of Houston Lake.”

2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption by the City Council of Houston Lake.

3. The City Clerk is authorized and instructed to make the appropriate insertion of Section 800, in the Houston Lake Code of Ordinances.

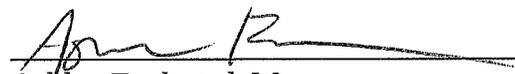
PASSED this 19 day of MARCH, 2025.


Ashley Fuglestad, Mayor

Attest


~~Lisa A. Shepard, City Clerk~~

APPROVED this 19 day of MARCH, 2025.


Ashley Fuglestad, Mayor



City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, the 12th day of November, 2025

Location: Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Mayor Schofield read information about the American Flag Symbolism in honor of Veterans' Day.

The regular meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Sarah Schofield on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:31 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Schofield.

On roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Sarah Schofield, Alderman Jesse Beshears, Alderman Sarah Loring, and Alderman Teresa Olson. A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Loring moved to approve the 08/27/25 Joint Meeting minutes of the City Council and VGHA. Beshears 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. Beshears moved to approve the 10/08/25 City Council Meeting minutes. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Riverside Fire Department Report - No representative was present, no report.

Platte Co Sheriff's Report- Sgt William Beeler reported five calls for service in October for a total of 34 hours: 3 welfare checks, 1 medical check, and 1 stolen vehicle. They continue to try to enforce the speed limit in the city. Speeding is up throughout the entire county.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - none

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (VGHA) REPORT

President, Pam Freese, reported having installed 4 more Blo Pods in the lake. Freese and Mary Head reported no public VGHA meetings for November or December, although board working meetings may be held. At the annual meeting, the following was determined: President, Pam Freese; Vice President/Treasurer/Lake Tags, Don Miller; Josh Williams, Board Member at Large - lake dues for 2026 is \$450, the budget passed, and the lake remediation passed. The deadline to submit news of any kind for the December edition of the Houston Laker is November 22, 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports dated 10/31/25 were reviewed and accepted as presented. Excess Funds in General Fund Account - Discussion regarding excess funds in the General Fund that can be moved to MOSIP to increase earnings. Beshears moved to transfer \$75,000 from the City's

Bank of Weston General Fund account to the City's General Fund Reserve account held at MOSIP. Olson 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review Restrictions Regarding Chickens - Lengthy council and public discussion regarding the pros and cons of raising chickens in Houston Lake. Discussion/review of a draft of a proposed Residential Backyard Hens Ordinance and Application including rules and requirements. Mayor Schofield requested residents and VGHA review all and offer comments to her.

NEW BUSINESS

2026 Election and Proposals - Next election is April 7, 2026 - two alderman positions will be on the ballot. Public has until March 11, 2026 to register to vote if they have not already done so. Candidates may pick up filing documents and complete/submit them between December 9 and December 30, 2025. Final certification is January 27, 2026 for candidates and for any question Houston Lake may wish to place on the ballot.

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

Shepard reported a fraudulent check was submitted to the City's bank but was caught by their accounting department before funds were removed from the account. Planning to start paying as many bills as possible online. She mentioned it was time to review staff salaries ahead of next year's budget planning since, for example, she is averaging about 58 hours per month @ \$3.46 per hour gross. She asked for assistance in purchasing a new computer.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Beshears cautioned all to be aware of scammers, especially those rushing to get money. Call phone number of company you know rather than respond to an email link. He is beginning work on Parks and Rec application for bridge. Loring thanked all that helped with the Chili Cookoff, she suggested we need lighter tables for City events. She'd like to see something about Sales and Use Tax on April's ballot. She believes we should put together a plan for short term rentals and the spillway should not be forgotten. Olson thanked all for the Chili Cookoff event. She believes the City should consider purchasing a solar speed sign.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Schofield reached out to Boy Scout troops for projects. Fall Brush Pick up is Nov 13. Evergy will be trimming trees in the community. Spillway and flume conversations continue with MODOT. Short term rentals can have a process: ordinance, application, etc. Shepard thanked the Mayor for all her work on the trees around the playground.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

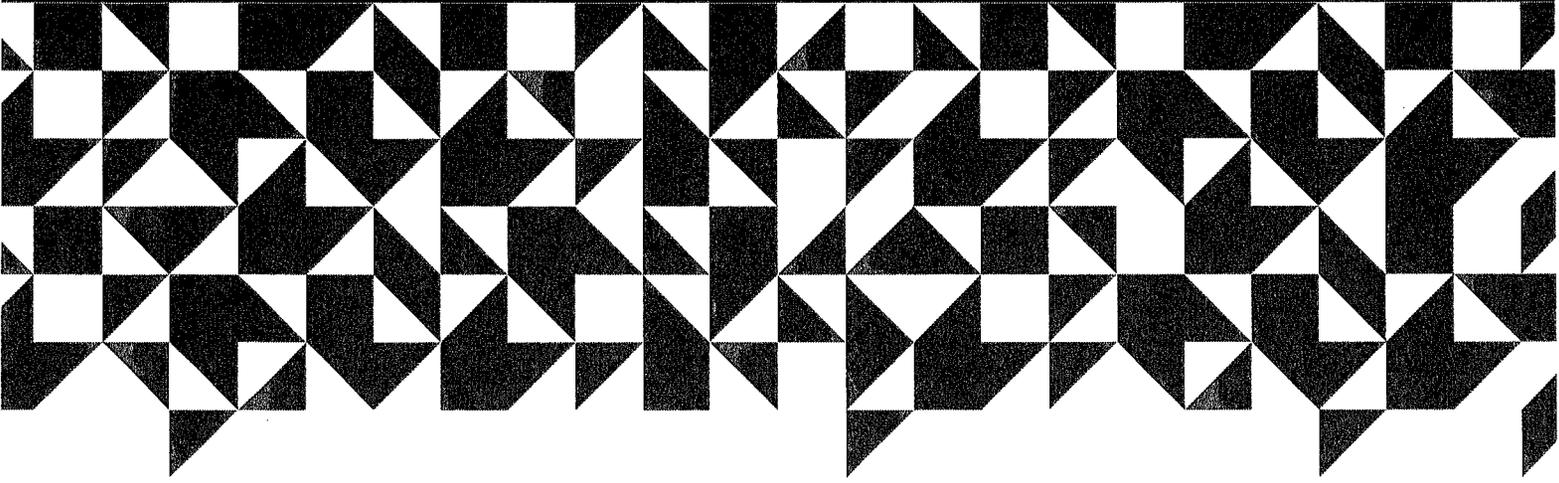
The next City Council meeting will be Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 9:03 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 12/11/2025

Arts Circle of Houston Lake



Art Refresh: February 21, 2 - 4pm

The **Arts Circle** is honored to announce a call for entries to our 10th Annual Art Show. This year's theme.

Open

Which means you choose your theme

This is a call to residents for their handmade creations in any medium. Lets see works from new participants and those we haven't seen for a while. So get out your paints, brushes, clay, ink or print out some of those great sunrise/sunset photos from your phone!

Entry Guidelines

Open to all Houston Lake Residents. All works must be made by the artist. Floor works must be firmly stable and less than 3 sq ft. Wall mounted pieces are limited to 20 lbs, and must be ready to hang.

Exhibit

Performance works performed only at the exhibit opening.

Pieces are displayed in City Hall from Feb to July.

2025/6 Arts Circle
Artwork Form (attach to back of art)

Artist:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Art Work

Title:

Medium (watercolor, yarn, etc):

The Arts Circle will care for your art, however we aren't responsible if damaged

2025/6 Arts Circle
Artwork Form (attach to back of art)

Artist:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Art Work

Title:

Medium (watercolor, yarn, etc):

The Arts Circle will care for your art, however we aren't responsible if damaged



A Heartfelt Reflection on a Wonderful Year at Houston Lake

As we look back on an incredible year at Houston Lake, we feel immense gratitude for the support and friendship of all our neighbors.

Your kindness has truly made this year unforgettable. As we step into the New Year, we eagerly anticipate creating more cherished memories together and extend our wishes for prosperity, health, and happiness to everyone.

Thank you for being part of our past, present, and future.



The City of Houston Lake
and
The Venetian Gardens Homes Association

HOUSTON LAKE, MISSOURI

(A Private Lake Community)

2026 Pointers

(Please save this information for reference during 2026)

Houston Lake is overseen by two separate organizations – the City of Houston Lake and the Venetian Gardens Homes Association.

The **City of Houston Lake** oversees Houston Lake's roads, sewer system, trash, grinder pumps, and several parcels of property owned by the City. It provides police and fire protection, as well as periodic brush pickup and snow removal from the streets throughout the City. These are paid through the City's annual budget which is primarily funded by property taxes. Contact email for the City is city-council@houstonlake.gov. The City Clerk can be reached at cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

The **Venetian Gardens Homes Association (VGHA)** oversees the lake and several parcels of property owned by the VGHA. Access to the lake, and maintenance of the lake, are provided by the VGHA's annual budget which is primarily funded by annual association dues. Contact for the VGHA is **President Pam Freese** via text or phone message: **816-726-4455**.

* * *

Important City of Houston Lake Information:

In case of an emergency – Call 911 (Police, Fire and/or Medical Emergency)

816-858-3521 – Non-Emergency Platte County Sheriff and Animal Control

816-372-9024 – Non-Emergency Riverside Fire Department

Utilities:

Electricity – 888-471-5275 – Evergy (www.Evergy.com)

For emergencies or lights out – 888-544-4852

Gas – 800-582-1234 – Spire (www.SpireEnergy.com)

For emergencies, same phone number as listed just above

Water – 866-430-0820 – Missouri American Water (www.amwater.com)

For emergencies, same phone number as listed just above

(over for more information)

Trash and Recycle Services are provided by Republic Services (www.republicservices.com). Each home is already set up to receive these services, picked up – weekly - on **Wednesday**, and paid through annual property taxes. Please have **one** trash bin and **one** recycle bin at the curb by 6:00 AM and take them back from the street by Wednesday evening. They should be 1 foot from the curb/edge of the street and at least 5 feet apart and away from any other object (to allow easy access for the truck’s arm to operate without striking anything). If you need assistance with bins, issues with pickup, or questions about large items – 816-254-1470. If you wish to place more than one of either bin at the curb on Wednesdays, there is an additional \$10 charge, per bin, per month. You can arrange this additional service you may need, including paying the additional fee, directly with Republic - 816-254-1470.

Grinder Pumps – a number of residents have Grinder Pumps. These are serviced by Haynes Equipment Services - 913-782-5013.

Dumpster Permit – if a dumpster is needed at a residence, please submit a Dumpster Permit Application, as well as the fee, by following the instructions found on the permit. The permit can be found at **www.houstonlake.gov/city-government/city-forms/** - and then select Dumpster Permit Application OR you can request a blank permit from cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

Building Permit – if any construction is contemplated at a residence, please submit a Building Permit Application, as well as the fee, by following the instructions found on the permit. The permit can be found at **www.houstonlake.gov/city-government/city-forms/** - and then select Building Permit Application OR you can request a blank permit from cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

* * *

Important Venetian Gardens Homes Association Information:

Lake Access – The payment of the VGHA annual association dues is required in order for residents, and their guests, to have access to Houston Lake’s private lake. The annual association dues are due by March 1 each year. When the annual payment is received, wrist bands are offered to residents. These are intended to be worn by anyone using the lake to easily identify those whose dues payment secured their lake access privileges for the current year. Each year, a new and different color wrist band is issued. Questions: contact **VGHA President Pam Freese** via text or phone message: **816-726-4455**.

Proper Cart Placement Is the Key to Automated Service



- Have the cart at the curb by 6 a.m. on your collection day.
- Place the cart at least 5 feet from any object – like a car, tree, pole, fire hydrant, mailbox, electrical box, or cable box – so the automated arm can reach your cart.
- Please maintain this same distance of 5 feet between recycling and waste carts.
- Don't lean anything against the cart.
- Don't place your cart under a tree.
- Place carts 1 foot from the curb or edge of the street.
- Place the cart with the arrows on the lid pointing toward the street and the handle toward your house.
- Remember to close the lid of the cart.
- Please don't allow children to play in or around the carts. Our trucks use mechanical arms to pick up the recycling and waste carts.



Sustainability in Action