

FEBRUARY 2025

# HOUSTON LAKER

SINCE MARCH 1957 - EDITION #67

## CITY COUNCIL NEWS

City Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30pm at City Hall

## VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOC

Meetings are held the third Monday of the month at City Hall beginning at 6:30pm. The next meeting is February 17, 2025

## CITY CODE - SPEED & PARKING

The City of Houston Lake has a 15 mph speed limit as well as a No Parking on the streets ordinance. For more information on the codes for the city visit [houstonlake.gov](http://houstonlake.gov) or contact a member of city council.

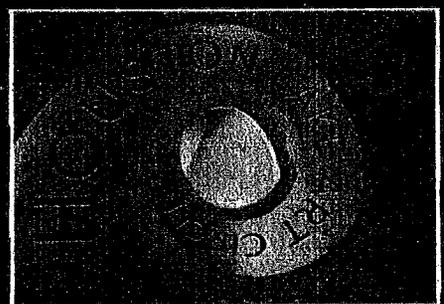


## RESIDENTS OF HOUSTON LAKE

Thank you to Chuck Stone, resident of Houston Lake for sending in this amazing picture of a fog that rolled in across the lake.

All residents of Houston Lake are welcome to send in photos, stories, events, ideas, articles, your sports scores, what's going on at your school, etc.

This is a community paper and the community is welcome to be a part of it. Email [editor.houstonlaker@gmail.com](mailto:editor.houstonlaker@gmail.com)



Picture from the City of Houston Lake

## THE ARTS CIRCLE IS HONORED TO CONTINUE OUR 10TH ANNUAL SERIES.

The Art Circle is continuing the current theme "Perspective"

Our artists will exchange previous art with new winter / spring art.

Art Circle Form included as an insert

City Hall  
Saturday February 8, 2025  
from 2 - 4pm.

## HOUSTON LAKE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

At the January 15th City Council Meeting, Mayor Pro-Tem Ashley Fuglestad announced the candidates for the upcoming election on April 8, 2025.

**Sarah Schofield is running for Mayor, Ashley Fuglestad is running to retain her seat as Alderman and Marsha Duncan is running for Alderman to fill the vacancy that will be left by Teena Walker-Robin.**

The Houston Laker wishes Teena the best in her future endeavors and we all thank her for her tireless efforts and passion for the City of Houston Lake.

## PLATTE COUNTY SAFE SITTER CLASS

Founded in 1980, Safe Sitter® is the only national nonprofit training program exclusively devoted to preparing young teens to be safe in unsupervised settings, whether home alone, sibling sitting or babysitting.

The Safe Sitter® babysitting curriculum is designed exclusively for young teens in grades 6 - 8, and covers the following areas: safety skills, childcare skills, first aid & rescue skills and life & business skills. Safe Sitter® babysitting courses are instructor-led and interactive, with hands-on demonstrations and skills practice using soft-bodied dolls and medical manikins.

Price to attend is \$60. Classes offered February 14th & March 25th.

Contact the Platte County Health Department for more information  
816.858.2412

[www.plattecounthhealthdept.com](http://www.plattecounthhealthdept.com)

## VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION

### Homes Association Annual Assessment:

The Homes Association dues statements were mailed  
January 31, 2025.

Annual dues are \$450.00, and they will become delinquent March 2, 2025. Past due amounts are charged a 10% penalty each year.

Payments can be mailed to City Hall or delivered to City Hall. If mailed, please mail it to:

Venetian Gardens Homes Association,  
5417 N. Adrian Ave,  
Houston Lake, Mo. 64151.

If delivered, please put your payment in the HOA mailbox on the front porch of city hall.

If you have any questions, call Treasurer Susan Hodges 816.786.2377 or email her at [hodges.susan@outlook.com](mailto:hodges.susan@outlook.com),  
Thank you



### THE USE OF HOUSTON LAKE IS AT YOUR OWN RISK

Just as in the summer and swimming, skating, playing, just being on the lake frozen or not in the winter is at your own risk.

Please use caution with your family, guests and pets if you decide to go 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 homeowners personal expense.

Venetian Gardens Homes Association and the City of Houston Lake are not to be held responsible.

## THE SENIOR SOURCE EDITION FROM PLATTE COUNTY

### 2025 INCOME GUIDELINES MEANS SAVINGS FOR SENIORS

You may be able to lower your co-pay for income based services, such as in-home services, minor home repairs, household systems, and accessibility safety modifications. The PCSF Board of Directors established new income guidelines to reflect current poverty statistics. Co-pay benefits are determined by the average monthly income received from:

Social Security  
Pension  
Rental Property  
Taxable Interest  
Dividend Earnings

Please review these new guidelines. If your co-pay falls in a new category you may:

Call to schedule a reassessment  
Mail copies of all documents

If your co-pay level does change, you and your provider will be given notice of the new level and effective date for the change.

#### Individuals

\$ 0.00 ~ \$1,569 = No Co-pay

\$1,570 ~ \$2,510 = 25% Co-pay

\$2,511 ~ \$3,451 = 50% Co-pay

\$3,542 ~ \$4,393 = 75% Co-pay

\$4,394 or above = Private Pay Referral

#### Couples

\$ 0.00 ~ \$2,129 = No Co-pay

\$2,130 ~ \$3,407 = 25% Co-pay

\$3,408 ~ \$4,684 = 50% Co-pay

\$4,685 ~ \$5,962 = 75% Co-pay

\$5,963 or above = Private Pay Referral

If you would like an E-newsletter please visit our website at: [www.platteseniors.org](http://www.platteseniors.org)  
Platte County Senior Fund • 816-270-2800 • [www.platteseniors.org](http://www.platteseniors.org)

## A STORY FROM GENE CHARLES

### Shivaree

Once I participated in a shivaree. It was to serenade the wedding of a sister of my aunt Bertha.

They were staying at her parent's house at the time. Someone organized a group that drove just down the road out of site of the house where they were staying.

Two men carried a sawmill saw blade to bang on while the rest of us carried pots and pans etc. to make noise as we paraded around the house until we were invited in.

I guess that was once a custom, but that was the only one that I ever heard about. This was the place where I would walk a couple of miles through the woods and hills to spend all day picking cherries and I could keep half of them and my dad would drive over to buy the other half and take them home.

They would serve me lunch. I did that several times.

### What exactly is a Shivaree?

Shivaree was a nineteenth and early twentieth century Appalachian custom (originally dating back to sixteenth-century France) of teasing a married couple on their wedding night or shortly thereafter. The bride was carried around in a tub at times, and the groom was ridden on a rail. In Tennessee the custom was more commonly called serenading, and in West Virginia and western Virginia the term belling also referred to this raucous, spontaneous celebration.

This information can be found at the Appalachian History website.

<https://www.appalachianhistory.net/2018/06/june-bride-time-for-shivaree.html>

## CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MISSOURI STATUTE 79.160. BOARD SHALL PUBLISH SEMIANNUAL STATEMENTS. – THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN SHALL SEMIANNUALLY EACH YEAR, AT TIMES TO BE SET BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN, MAKE OUT AND SPREAD UPON THEIR RECORDS A FULL AND DETAILED ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF THE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES AND INDEBTEDNESS OF THE CITY FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDING WITH THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF SUCH REPORT, WHICH ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN SOME NEWSPAPER IN THE CITY.

THE SEMIANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE IS INCLUDED WITH THE FEBRUARY ISSUE AS AN INSERT. A COPY MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE CITY CLERK.

Intermediate Sudoku by KrazyDad, Volume 1, Book 1

## Sudoku #1

	2	4	3	8				
					6			7
	5	8				4		
4				1				
			7		5			
				2				8
		1				6	7	
3			5					
				4	9	2	1	

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Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

Need a little help? The hints page shows a logical order to solve the puzzle. Use it to identify the next square you should solve. Or use the answers page if you really get stuck.

The true strength and sound mind is the mind that can embrace equally great things and small things.  
— Samuel Johnson

## 2025 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.

### **2024 Holidays:**

January 1st New Years Day -  
Pick up changed to Thursday January 2nd

May 26th Memorial Day - Pick  
up changed to Thursday May 29th

July 4th Independence Day -  
No Change pick up will be on  
Wednesday July 2nd

September 1st Labor Day -  
Pick up changed to Thursday September 4th

November 27th  
Thanksgiving - No Change  
pick up will be on Wednesday  
November 26th

December 25th Christmas -  
No Change pick up will be on Wednesday  
December 24th

### **2025 Recycling Dates (2nd Wednesday)**

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

# LAKE LIFE

## February

2 - Groundhog Day

8 - Art Circle art exchange  
2-4pm at City Hall

12 - Recycling Day

12- City Council Meeting  
at City Hall 6:30pm

14 - Valentines Day

17 - VGHA Meeting at City Hall  
6:30pm

17 - Presidents Day

21 - Articles, photos and news  
for the Laker are due

Listening Sessions are held at  
City Hall every Saturday at 10am

### **HOUSTON LAKE COOKBOOK**

1st and 2nd Edition of the  
Houston Lake Cookbooks is  
available for \$3.00 each.

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

### **HOUSTON LAKE HISTORY BOOK**

65 pages of the History of  
Houston Lake. \$5.00 each.

Email Mary Head at  
maryjewel40@gmail.com or  
call her at 741-5639.

Law Enforcement Services	5,943.59							5,943.59	17,000
Office Supplies	1,202.53							1,202.53	2,500
Office Equipment/Maintenance	890.07							890.07	1,000
Payroll Taxes	1,002.53								2,300
Playground	5,329.71							5,329.71	20,000
Property/Park Maintenance	1,170.00							1,170.00	11,000
Snow Removal	1,170.00								8,500
Special Events	1,894.75								1,000
Technology Services	30.00								3,000
Training & Education	21,945.82							21,945.82	43,000
Traffic Disposal									300
Travel/Mileage	5,598.59							5,598.59	13,800
Wages/Taxes	1,725.75							1,725.75	3,500
Street Lighting	34,840.00							34,840.00	34,840
Street Maintenance								1,432.91	13,000
Grinder Pump Repair/Replace								7,500.00	15,000
Fire Protection									10,000
Fire Protection Operations									9,800
Transfer from GF to Grinder Pump									20,000
Transfer from GF to Fire Protection	47,295.96	36,565.75	1,432.91	7,500.00				92,794.62	346,870
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS									
ENDING BALANCE 12/31/24	132,488.77	17,986.29	23,005.31	35,904.79	1,468.01			519.75	211,072.92

BALANCES AS OF 12/31/24

General Fund	132,488.77
Road Fund	17,686.29
Grinder Pump Fund	23,005.31
Fire Protection Fund	35,904.79
Municipal Court Account	1,468.01
Municipal Court Bond Account	519.75
Transportation Sales Tax Acct	6,376.89
General Fund CD	24,796.88
General Fund CD	27,516.28
Sewer Fund CD	5,227.43
Sewer Fund CD	10,820.46
Mill & Overlay CD	16,781.54
TOTAL OF ALL ACCOUNTS	302,592.20

Account Funded and Held by Platte Co - Houston Lake can draw funds in October and March

Interest Paid Monthly

Interest Paid every 6 months

Interest Paid every 6 months

Interest Paid every 6 months

Interest Paid Monthly

NOTE: Missouri State Statute RSMO 79.160 requires Boards of fourth class cities (such as Houston Lake) to review and publish a semi-annual financial report. This July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 statement was reviewed and approved by the Council at the City Council Meeting on 01/15/25.

City of Houston Lake  
Condensed Statement of Income and Expenditures  
Beginning July 1, 2024 and Ending December 31, 2024

	General Fund	Road Fund	Grinder Pump Fund	Fire Protection Fund	Municipal Court	Municipal Court Bond	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	BUDGET
BALANCE AS OF 07/01/24	141,921.01	47,607.21	24,330.63	43,194.78	1,466.01	519.75	259,041.39	
<b>INCOME &amp; RECEIPTS</b>								
Bonds, Permits & Fees	872.38						872.38	
HL Sewer / Trash	9,669.15						9,669.15	134,000
Municipal Court Fines	3,837.50						3,837.50	7,500
Parkville Road District		97.70					97.70	2,800
Property Tax (PP & RE)	4,199.02						4,199.02	51,600
Railroad & Utility Tax							0.00	1,500
Grinder Pump Tax							0.00	9,600
Special Fire Tax Levy							0.00	20,000
Transportation Sales Tax							0.00	12,000
Utility Franchise Tax	18,231.62						18,231.62	42,000
Vehicle Tax Rebates	987.44	6,524.74					6,524.74	12,000
VGHQA Reimbursement	87.61		107.58	210.01			407.60	2,500
Interest Earned			22.39				22.39	579
Transfer from Fire Protection Fund							0.00	4,800
Transfer from General Fund							0.00	31,180
Transfer from Grinder Pump Fund							0.00	3,200
Transfer from Road Fund							0.00	11,520
<b>TOTAL INCOME &amp; RECEIPTS</b>	<b>37,863.72</b>	<b>6,644.83</b>	<b>107.58</b>	<b>210.01</b>			<b>44,826.15</b>	<b>346,876</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>								
Advertising								200
Attorney/Accounting/Codifying	1,027.73						1,027.73	8,000
Bond, Permit & Building Inspections								
City Hall Utilities	1,492.50						1,492.50	3,700
Code Admin								3,500
Court - Domestic Shelter	32.00						32.00	165
Court - Law Enforcement Training	32.00						32.00	165
Election Expenses							0.00	800
Gifts/Awards/Donations							0.00	1,000
Insurance							0.00	7,500
KC Sewer Maintenance							0.00	91,000
Kitchen & Restroom Supplies	44.14						44.14	500



## **City Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, the 11th day of December, 2024

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

The regular meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Fuglestad on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 6:34 PM.

On roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Ashley Fuglestad (Acting Mayor), Alderman Jesse Beshears, Alderman Sarah Loring, and Alderman Teena Walker-Robin.

### **REVIEW OF AGENDA FOR 12/11/2024**

The agenda was included in the notice for the meeting. To Permits -an extension for abuilding permit for 5424 NW Venetian Dr was added.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Walker-Robin moved to approve the 11/13/2024 City Council Meeting minutes as presented and the 12/04/2024 Working City Council Meeting minutes by amending "All 72 items..." to "Some items...". Fuglestad 2nd. Three Aldermen approved, Loring abstained.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**Fire Department Report** -No report

**Sheriff's Report** -Captain Woodrow Painter reported five calls for service last month.

Walker-Robin mentioned the 15 mph speed limit throughout the city and asked what help the police department could offer to enforce this speed limit, especially around the curve on Adrian close to City Hall where the police sometimes park. Painter indicated they could set up radar signs and collect data.

### **VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (VGHA) REPORT**

Mary Head reported no VGHA meetings scheduled for December or January. She indicated the deadline to submit news of any kind for the January Houston Laker is December 18, and for the February edition, the deadline is January 21, 2025.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Jennifer Heese, new resident, introduced herself. She was welcomed.

### **PERMITS**

**Building** -extension for 5426 NW Venetian Dr permit. Discussion. Loring moved to extend the permit to December 11, 2025. Walker-Robin 2nd. Avoice vote resulted in unanimous approval.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Discussion. Financial Reports dated 11/30/24 were accepted as presented. Council wants more detail about what is included in printing supplies.

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## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Prepare for upcoming election in April 2025:** Discussion regarding the language needed for the Fire Suppression Proposition for the April ballot. This will be taken up in depth at the next Working Meeting of the Council. Shepard reported, at this time, no candidates have applied for Mayor, or for the two Adlerman positions. The deadline to file is December 31, 2024. The deadline to submit Fire Suppression Proposition language and candidates to the Platte County Board of Elections is January 29, 2025.

**Update on obligating Covid Funds:** Shepard offered a simplified report, based on letters received from the U.S. Treasury, and webinars she and Kay Honeycutt have attended about covid funds reporting. They recommend completing the reports needed, obligating the remaining \$29,543.76, and expending the remaining funds to Law Enforcement expenses incurred in 2022, 2023, and 2024 by the April 2025 deadline.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

## **REPORT FROM CITY CLERK**

Shepard received a request from a resident about any codes, etc. regarding renting their property. Council indicated there were none. Shepard will contact VGHA to include anything they wish to add. Discussion regarding a public version of the Project Tracker to be shared with residents when requested. A version was approved to be mailed. RSMO 610.022 can be reviewed for future versions.

## **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Jesse Beshears** emailed Google Fiber to see if they can provide services to Houston Lake but does not believe it is hopeful at this time. A resident contacted him about finishing the remodel which was begun in the City Hall basement. He suggested getting bids for completing the remodel. The 2024-2025 budget can be reviewed to see if there is funding available this year.

**Loring** welcomed Beshears as the newest Alderman and thanked him for recent projects he had worked on on the bridge and at City Hall. Remind residents to lock doors.

**Fuglestad** had a resident ask about trash cans and the size of recycle bins. She requested more bridge quotes.

**Walker-Robin** suggested a poll of residents should be taken regarding a walking bridge vs a drivable bridge. She reminded everyone to attend the holiday party on Sunday 12/15. There is an engineering problem regarding hanging the new holiday ornaments on the city's telephone poles. She is still hoping to get them hung this year.

## **NEXT MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next Working Meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall. The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Fuglestad adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

*Approved 01/15/2025*

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## **City Council Working Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, the 8th day of January, 2025

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

The Working Meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Fuglestad at 6:36 PM.

The following members were present via Google Meet: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Ashley Fuglestad (Acting Mayor), Alderman Jesse Beshears, Alderman Sarah Loring, and Alderman Teena Walker-Robin.

### **CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Discussion regarding the percentage rate to be included in the Fire Suppression Proposition for the April 2025 ballot. Documents have been reviewed by the City's attorney. Expenses that can be attributed to fire suppression were discussed. Total expenditures calculated over the next 4 years in order to consider a reduction in the rate. Final discussion to be held during the January 15 City Council meeting.

Discussion regarding a new Burn Ordinance in order to possibly move away from Burn Permits. Aversion was reviewed and will be brought up at the next Council meeting.

Discussion regarding the quality of the last snow removal. Beshears indicated he would contact Embassy. Beshears also indicated he would look into ways to sell the snow removal equipment the City currently owns.

Storm Water Grants from Platte County can be submitted this March. Beshears will work on this grant, assisted by Loring and Shepard. May need numbers provided by Honeycutt as well.

Bids for the bridge were discussed. Still wanting bids for both a walking and a drivable bridge.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

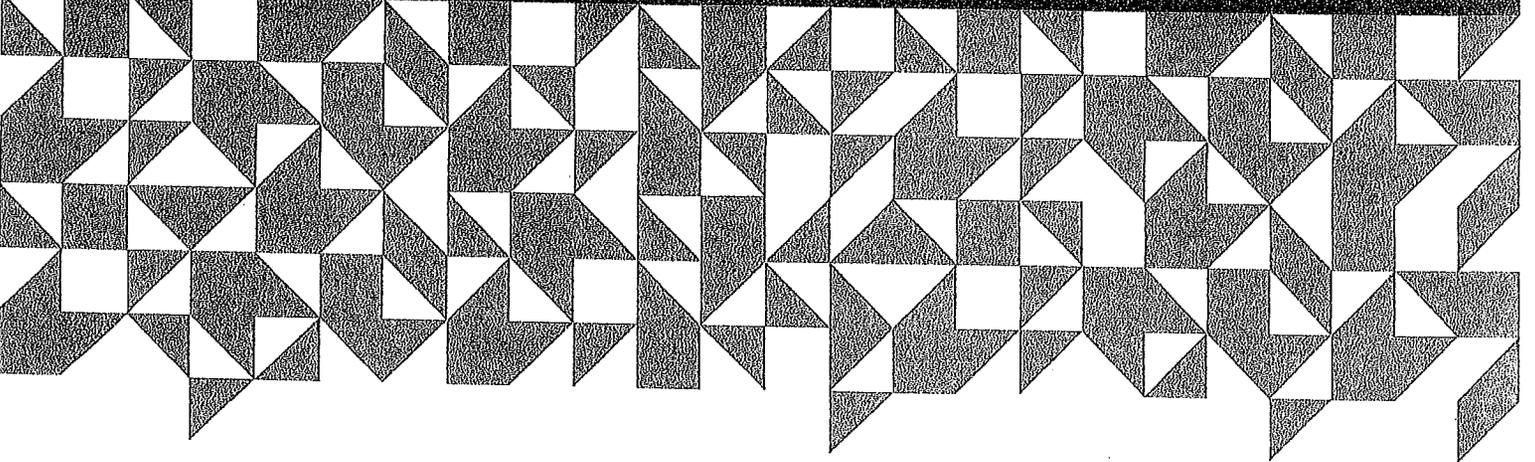
Fuglestad adjourned the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

*Approved 01/15/2025*

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# Arts Circle of Houston Lake



**Art Refresh: February 8, 2 - 4pm**

The Arts Circle is honored to continue our 10th Annual Series.

## *Perspective*

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.

**2024 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

**2024 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

IN CASE OF A POLICE, FIRE,  
OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY - DIAL 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 CITY OFFICIALS

City Hall - (816) 741-0644

Mayor -

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

Teena Walker-Robin nw1-

alderman@houstonlake.gov

Jesse Beshears nw2-

alderman@houstonlake.gov

Ashley Fuglestad (serving as Mayor)

sw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Sarah Loring

sw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

### VENETIAN GARDENS HOA OFFICERS

President - Pam Freese

(816) 726-4455

venetian.gardens.homes.assoc@gmail.com

Vice President - Frank Wilson

(816) 520-3931

imua62@gmail.com

Secretary - Monica Beshears

(573) 356-4118

weety30@gmail.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

As most of the City Officials and  
HOA 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,  
Listening Sessions,  
events, and by appointment.

# 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