



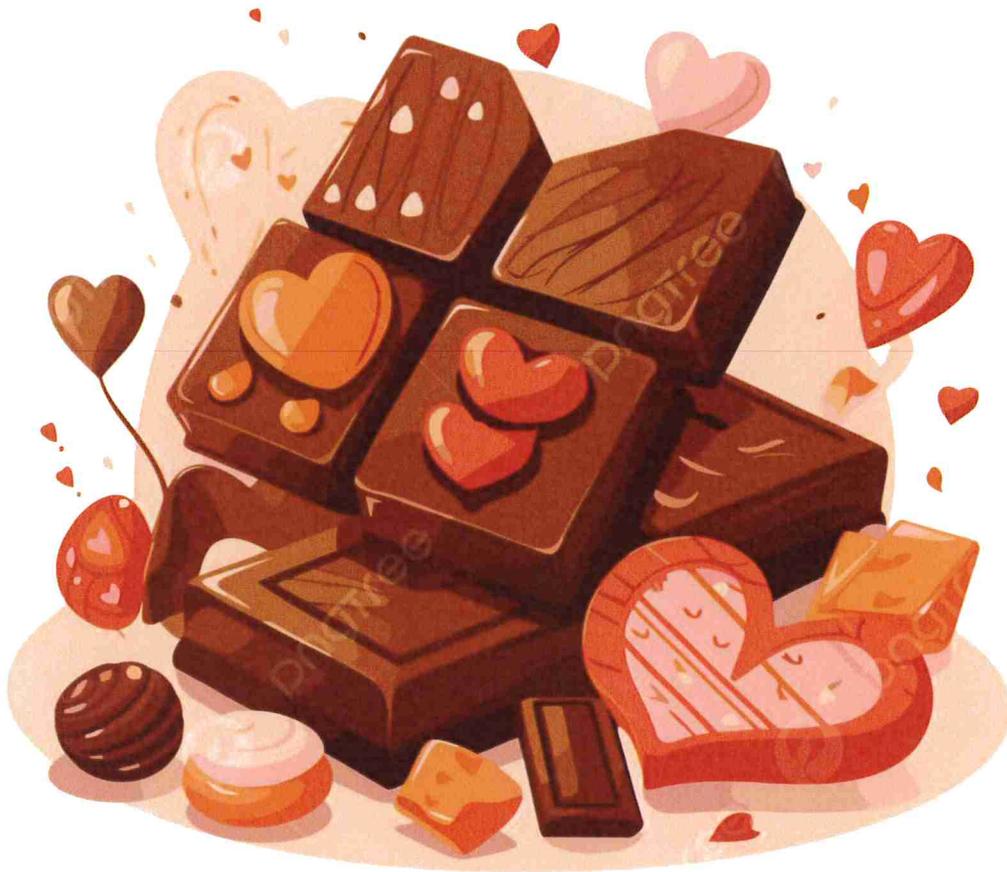
Houston Laker

Since March 1957 – Edition 68

February 2026 issue



Happy Valentine's Day



From City of Houston Lake

and Venetian Gardens Homes Association

Letter from the Mayor

Thank you all for your flexibility and understanding as we navigated changes to the city council meeting schedule. Our January meeting was especially productive as we continued our work on regulations for Short Term Rentals (STR). We appreciated seeing both current STR operators and residents with differing viewpoints engage in a respectful, constructive exchange.

As we move closer to finalizing a draft ordinance, I encourage anyone who hasn't yet reviewed the list discussed in December and January to contact city-council@houstonlake.gov. Now is the time to get involved and share your thoughts—before the draft ordinance and registration agreement are completed.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Sincerely,
Sarah Schofield
Mayor, City of Houston Lake

* * * * *

Looking for News and Information about Houston Lake and/or the Venetian Gardens Homes Association (VGHA)?

Check out the City's newly updated website: www.houstonlake.gov

Follow the City on Facebook: Houston Lake, MO

Contact the Mayor and City Council members at: city-council@houstonlake.gov

Current and past issues of the
Houston Laker: www.houstonlake.gov then select Houston Laker

Check out the VGHA's newly updated website: www.vgha.community

Follow the VGHA on Facebook: Venetian Gardens Homes Association

Contact the VGHA at: pamelafreese@gmail.com

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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 *February 2026* *Events*

Trash and Recycling pick up is every Wednesday

11 – City of Houston Lake Meeting – City Hall 6:30pm
VGHA Treasurer Don Miller will be collecting dues and distribute 2026 Lake wristbands from 6pm to 6:30pm.

14 – Happy Valentine's Day

16 – VGHA meeting – City Hall 6:30pm. VGHA Treasurer Don Miller will be collecting dues and distribute 2026 Lake wristbands from 6pm to 6:30pm.

21 – VGHA Treasurer Don Miller will be at city hall to collect dues and distribute 2026 lake wristbands. 9am to noon.

21 – Art Circle = Art Refresh City Hall, 2pm to 4pm.

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR LISTING

In preparation for printing an updated City Directory, a few of the residents here have volunteered to verify the information to be listed in the directory for 2026-2027. During the month of February, they will be calling on each household to confirm how you want to be listed. For example, email address only, or only phone without an email.

This directory will be similar to the last edition, containing information helpful to the citizens of Houston Lake about the active groups here, and will have a listing by name and a listing by address. It is a print edition only. No online access at all. It will be distributed throughout our city in the first week of April. The sheriff's deputies that patrol this area will receive one, as well.



Happy 90th Birthday

to Linda Charles

February 20th

From all your

Neighbors

and Friends.



Special note from Lisa - Jewel Head reached this milestone five months ahead of Linda! ;)

Please Call: (816) 200-2325



COMPUTER REPAIR SPECIALIST



We Help To Fix All Your
Computer Problems!

- ✓ Virus and Malware Removal
- ✓ PC Builds
- ✓ Hardware Repair and Replacement
- ✓ Network Setup and Repair

Contact Us:

2408 NW Vivion Rd
Riverside, MO 64150
(816) 200-2325

Please Tell Them You Saw This Advertisement
In The Houston Laker Community Newspaper



“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 this 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: 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 VGHA DUES

Annual Venetian Gardens Homes Association dues statements were mailed January 30, 2026. Annual dues are **\$450.00**; (**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 to the front door of City Hall. If mailed, please mail to:

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

VGHA Treasurer, Don Miller will be at City Hall to collect dues and distribute 2026 lake wristbands Saturday 9am to noon on February 21. If you have any questions, please contact VGHA Treasurer, Don Miller: phone **(918) 633-4109** or email **drmiller5@icloud.com**

* * * * *

I'd like to thank the members of the Venetian Gardens Homes Association for their financial support and volunteer support of efforts to maintain a private, fun, safe, and beautiful Houston Lake.

The annual dues paid by our members provide the necessary resources to accomplish ongoing dead tree removal, brush removal, mowing, aerator repairs, electricity, water, maintenance of the Beach area and Mayor's Park, insurance, taxes, and Houston Laker publishing. In addition to these ongoing costs, your dues provide a fund which can be utilized for performing occasional significant lake remediation and beautification projects.

As a member of the Board, I'd like to thank each of you in advance for your prompt payment of your annual dues and your volunteer efforts around our community! - Don Miller

Upcoming General Municipal Election and Question
April 7, 2026 (Mark Your Calendar)
Explanation of Expected Items for Residents to Consider

Registered voters in Houston Lake will go to the poles on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 between 6:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. to elect two (2) **Aldermen** and to answer **Question #1**. There will be other items on your ballot but these two items pertain specifically to Houston Lake.

* * *

Aldermen

The two aldermen that will appear on the ballot are:

Sarah Loring - currently serving as an Alderman - her term is expiring.

Jesse Beshears - currently serving as an Alderman - his term is expiring.

Both candidates are running for two year terms. You will be asked to vote for two (2) Aldermen.

* * *

Question #1

Shall the City of Houston Lake, Missouri impose a city sales tax of one percent (1%)?

You will be asked to approve or oppose this question.

History of this Question Appearing on the Ballot

In recent months/years, the Houston Lake City Council has been concerned about the impact on the city's roads due to the increase in traffic from heavy delivery vehicles. Especially regarding how to fund the upkeep of the pavements.

In consulting other same-sized cities, and seeking legal advice, it was determined that a **Use Tax** would be a good revenue source - way to obtain additional funding to support the maintenance of Houston Lake's roadways.

It was further explained to Council, before placing a Use Tax question on the ballot for residents to consider - a **Sales Tax** would need to be established. (Houston Lake has never had a Sales Tax.)

If the **Sales Tax** is approved on the April ballot - a **Use Tax** question can be placed on the November 2026 ballot for residents to consider.

This is a simplified version of the history of this Question appearing for residents' consideration in April. There have been many months of consideration accomplished by the City Council prior to this Question. The City Council welcomes your specific questions, should you have any, ahead of April 7. Please email the Houston Lake City Council at **city-council@houstonlake.gov**

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A CITY SALES TAX FOR GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES AT THE RATE OF ONE PERCENT (1%) PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY AND SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF R.S.MO. 94.500 to 94.550 AND PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY FOR APPROVAL AT AN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON APRIL 7, 2026.

WHEREAS, the City of Houston Lake, Missouri is authorized pursuant to R.S.Mo. 94.500 to 94.550 to impose a city sales tax at a rate of One Percent (1%); and

WHEREAS, this proposed city sales tax, if approved by the voters, shall be imposed on all receipts from the sale at retail of all tangible personal property or taxable services at retail within the city, if such property and services are subject to taxation by the state of Missouri under the provisions of R.S.Mo. 144.010 to 144.525; and

WHEREAS, the proposed city sales tax requires a majority approval by the qualified voters voting thereon in favor of the proposal at an election.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON LAKE, PLATTE COUNTY, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the authority granted by R.S.Mo. 94.500 to 94.550 a city sales tax at a rate of One Percent (1%) for general revenue purposes is imposed on all receipts from the sale at retail of all tangible personal property or taxable services at retail within the city, if such property and services are subject to taxation by the state of Missouri under the provisions of R.S.Mo. 144.010 to 144.525.

SECTION 2: This tax shall be submitted to the qualified voters of Houston Lake, Missouri, as required by R.S.Mo. 94.500 to 94.550, at the election hereby called and to be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026. The ballot of submission shall contain the following language:

Shall the City of Houston Lake, Missouri impose a city sales tax of One Percent (1%)?

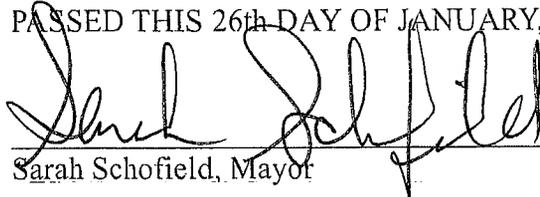
- Yes
- No

If you are in favor of the question, place an "X" in the circle opposite "YES".
If you are opposed to the question, place an "X" in the circle opposite "NO".

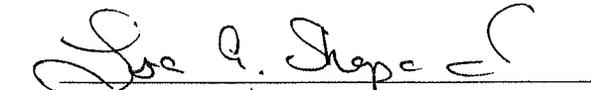
SECTION 3: The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give notice to the Platte County, Missouri Board of Elections of the calling of the election no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 27, 2026. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to perform such other tasks as may be necessary and required by law to place this proposal on the ballot at the election to be held on April 7, 2026.

SECTION 4: This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and approval subject to the provisions herein contained which provide for voter approval.

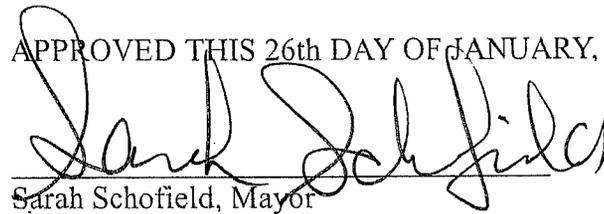
PASSED THIS 26th DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.


Sarah Schofield, Mayor

ATTEST:


~~Lisa A. Shepard, City Clerk~~

APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.


Sarah Schofield, Mayor

POLLING PLACES ARE OPEN FROM 6:00 AM TO 7:00 PM ON ELECTION DAY.

Important: If you are in line at the closing time of 7:00 PM you have the right to cast your vote

POLLING PLACE LOCATIONS & VOTER INFORMATION

Find out where you are registered to vote and to find out where you vote.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF VOTER ID

Show one of the forms of acceptable identification and sign the poll book to obtain your ballot:

- A nonexpired Missouri driver or non-driver license;
- A nonexpired military ID, including a veteran's ID card;
- A nonexpired United States passport; or
- Another photo ID issued by the United States or the state of Missouri which is either not expired or expired after the date of the most recent general election.
- *If the driver or non-driver license has expired after the most recent general election, it is an acceptable form of voter ID.
- If you do not possess any of these forms of identification, but are a registered voter, you may cast a provisional ballot. Your ballot will count if: (1) you return to your polling place on Election Day with a photo ID; or (2) the signature on your provisional ballot envelope is determined by your local election authority to match the signature on your voter registration record.

If you cast a provisional ballot, you will receive a stub from your provisional ballot envelope with instructions on how to verify that your provisional ballot is counted.

VOTING WITH A PAPER BALLOT

Missouri no longer allows the "straight party" ticket option — You must mark your ballot individually for each candidate you choose.

VOTING ON ELECTION MACHINES

- Know how to properly use your voting equipment and cast your ballot
- Ask for a demonstration or assistance from an election judge if you need additional assistance
- Read the instructions posted in your polling place
- *Second Chance Voting* — if you accidentally over-vote your ballot (mark more candidates for a race than to be elected), you will have the opportunity to correct your ballot

ACCESSIBLE VOTING

Curbside Voting: Voters with limited mobility can vote "curbside" or outside the polling place. Just go to your polling place and ask someone to go in and ask poll workers to bring a ballot out to you. They should bring you a ballot within a reasonable period of time.

- **Accessible Polling Places:** If you have physical disabilities, and your polling place is not accessible, you may request a different polling place assignment so that you may vote in a more accessible polling place. You may also vote at a central location. Simply contact your local election authority to make this request. You can find your local election authority or by calling (800)NOW-VOTE.
- **Accessible Voting Systems:** Every polling place must have an accessible voting system for individuals with disabilities including audiovisual accessibility. Accessible systems include an audio ballot to make your selections or the ability to enlarge text so that you can read the on-screen ballot with ease.
- **Permanent Absentee Voting:** If you have a permanent physical disability, you may request to be placed on a designated list so that your local election authority can automatically mail an absentee ballot application directly to you prior to each election. You will need to make this request directly to your local election authority that will send you further information.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Prior to the second Tuesday before an election, or at any time when requesting an absentee ballot to return by mail, absentee voters must provide one of the following reasons for voting absentee:

1. Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which such voter is registered to vote;
2. Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability on election day, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability and resides at the same address;
3. Religious belief or practice;
4. Employment as an election authority or by an election authority at a location other than such voter's polling place, a first responder, a health care worker, or a member of law enforcement;
5. Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained.
6. Certified participation in the address confidentiality program established under sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of safety concerns.

Voters can request absentee ballots from their local election authority in person, by mail, by fax or by e-mail. Relatives within the second degree (spouse, parents and children) may complete an absentee ballot application, in person, on behalf of the voter who wishes to vote absentee. **DO NOT SEND ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE. ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL ELECTION AUTHORITY BY THE DEADLINE IN ORDER TO BE VALID.** Contact information for local election authorities and an absentee ballot application form may be found at the links below.

Mail in or faxed absentee ballot requests must be received by the election authority no later than the 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday prior to any election. Voters can vote by absentee in the office of the local election authority until 5:00 p.m. the night before the election.

Voters requesting an absentee ballot by mail who have registered by mail and have not voted in person are required to submit a copy of their personal identification unless they provided a copy with their registration application. Examples of acceptable identification are:

- A nonexpired Missouri driver or non-driver license;
- A nonexpired military ID, including a veteran's ID card;
- A nonexpired United States passport; or
- Another photo ID issued by the United States or the state of Missouri which is either not expired or expired after the date of the most recent general election.

This identification requirement, as well as the notary requirement for absentee ballots, does not apply to overseas voters, those on active military duty or members of their immediate family living with them or voters who are permanently disabled and their caregivers.

Additional information for military and overseas voters may be found at the section entitled Military and Overseas Voters.

When voting an absentee ballot in person, you must show an acceptable form of photo ID. In person absentee voters are not eligible for a provisional ballot.

From the second Tuesday before an election to the day before the election, you may vote a no-excuse absentee ballot in person at a location designated by your local election authority.

Are you registered to Vote?

All residents of Houston Lake whether you are Owner or Renter can register and VOTE. You must be 18 years old or older to register.

Last Day to register to vote for the April 7th, 2026 General Municipal Election is Wednesday March 4, 2026.

You can register to vote at most Public offices. These include libraries, schools, City and County offices and the DMV. You can also get a postcard registration (PDF) to mail in or fill out an online application (external link).

Any Question call:

Platte County Board of Election
2600 NW Prairie View Road
PO Box 560
Platte City, Missouri 64079
Office Hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Phone (816) 858-4400
Fax (816) 858-3387
platte@sos.mo.gov

Return your complete absentee ballot request **FORM** to Platte County Board of Election office to receive your ballot. **Last day** absentee ballot can be mailed is two weeks before Election Day, Wednesday March 18, 2026.

Information is included as an insert in this Houston Laker edition.

Voting Location for Houston Lake Residents: Hills of Walden Clubhouse
5858 North Polk Drive
Kansas City, Missouri 64151

MISSOURI VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Use this application to:

1. Register to vote in any election in Missouri.
2. Register to vote when you move from one jurisdiction (St. Louis City, Kansas City, or any county) to another jurisdiction (St. Louis City, Kansas City, or any county) within Missouri.
3. Change the address on a current voter registration when you move within a jurisdiction.
4. Change the name on a current voter registration.

Other information:

1. You must be 18 years of age by the day of a particular election to be eligible to vote in that election.
2. If mailed, this form must be postmarked by the 4th Wednesday preceding an election to be eligible to vote in that election. If delivered in person, it must be received in the office of the election authority by the 4th Wednesday preceding an election. (See reverse for election calendar.)
3. Submitting this application to an individual other than the election authority does not insure timely voter registration.
4. After the election authority receives your voter registration application, you will be sent confirmation within 7 business days. If you do not receive confirmation, contact the election authority.
5. If you wish to serve as an election judge on election day please contact your local election authority and mark the box at the bottom of this form.
6. Optional—If registering by mail for the first time, please submit a copy of one of the following forms of identification: current or valid photo ID, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows your name and address, birth certificate, Native American tribal document or other proof of United States citizenship. (You will be required to present identification when you vote.)

Completing this form (All information is required unless indicated as optional):

Boxes 1 and 2 -- Citizen and Age Requirements

Federal Law requires voter registration applicants to answer these two questions.

Box 3 -- Type of Application

Check appropriate box if this is a new registration or if you are changing a name or address on your current voter registration.

Box 4 -- Name

Put in this box your full name (Last, First, Middle). DO NOT use nicknames or initials. For name changes, Box 12 should contain your old name.

Box 5 -- Home Address

List your home address. DO NOT put your mailing address if it differs from your home address.

Box 6 -- Mailing Address

If you get your mail at an address other than your home address in Box 5, put that address here in this box.

Box 7 -- Driver's License Number

Required for registration unless you do not have a Driver's License. (§115.158, RSMo.) If you do not have a Driver's License, leave blank.

Box 8 -- Last Four Digits of Social Security Number

Required for registration unless you do not have a Social Security Number. (§115.155, RSMo, §115.158, RSMo.) If you do not have a Social Security Number, leave blank.

Box 9 -- Date of Birth

Place your date of birth in this box (Month, Day, Year). DO NOT USE TODAY'S DATE!

Box 10 -- Place of Birth (Optional)

List your place of birth (city/county/state).

Box 11 -- Daytime Phone Number (Optional)

Please list a number at which the election authority may contact you for clarification of information.

Box 12 -- Last Voter Registration Information

If you are currently registered, please list the name and address of your last registration including county and state.

Box 13 -- Signature

Review the information. If you meet the requirements and all is correct, sign your full name or make your mark and print today's date.

Box 14 -- Rural Voters

If you live in a rural area without a street address, please supply information which may help in placing you in the proper voting district.

YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE CONFIRMED BY MAIL WITHIN SEVEN (7) BUSINESS DAYS OF ITS RECEIPT BY THE ELECTION AUTHORITY. PLEASE CONTACT THE ELECTION AUTHORITY IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE NOTIFICATION.

(DETACH HERE - KEEP TOP PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS) This card is not proof of registration.



MISSOURI VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

USE PEN - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1 ARE YOU A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		2 WILL YOU BE 18 YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE ELECTION DAY? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
If you checked no in response to either of the above questions, do not complete this form.			
3 <input type="checkbox"/> NEW REGISTRATION <input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE <input type="checkbox"/> NAME CHANGE			FOR OFFICE USE ONLY REGISTRATION NO.
4 LAST NAME		FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME
			SUFFIX (JR, II, ETC.)
			<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE
5 ADDRESS WHERE YOU LIVE (HOUSE NO., STREET, APT. NO. OR RURAL ROUTE AND BOX - NO PO BOXES)		CITY	COUNTY
			ZIP CODE
6 ADDRESS WHERE YOU GET YOUR MAIL (REQUIRED IF DIFFERENT FROM #5 ABOVE)		CITY	STATE
			MO
7 DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE, PLEASE LEAVE BLANK.		8 LAST 4 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER* IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PLEASE LEAVE BLANK.	
9 DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YYYY)	10 PLACE OF BIRTH (OPTIONAL)	11 DAYTIME PHONE NO. (OPTIONAL)	
12 NAME AND ADDRESS ON LAST VOTER REGISTRATION NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTY _____ If currently registered in another state or county please complete this box.		13 I hereby certify that I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state of Missouri. I am at least seventeen and one half years of age. I have not been adjudged incapacitated by any court of law, if I have been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor connected with the right of suffrage, I have had the voting disabilities resulting from such conviction removed pursuant to law. I swear under penalty of perjury that all statements made on this card are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if I register to vote knowing that I am not legally entitled to register, I am committing a class one election offense and may be punished by imprisonment of not more than five years or by a fine of between two thousand five hundred dollars and ten thousand dollars or by both such imprisonment and fine.	
14 RURAL VOTERS: COMPLETE THIS SECTION IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF ANY CITY. I live _____ miles _____ (N S E or W) of _____ (landmark or junction). Section, Township and range _____ My neighbors are _____		Date _____	Signature _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you are interested in working as an Election Judge			

Warning: Conviction for making a false statement may result in imprisonment for up to five years and/or a fine up to \$10,000.

Place
Postage
Here

MO

**Platte County Election Board
2600 NW Prairie View Rd.
PO Box 560
Platte City, MO 64079**

FOLD HERE

Mailing Instructions

1. Sign the form.
2. Fold this sheet with address showing.
3. Fold and insert completed voter application.
4. Tape edges.
5. Apply postage.
6. Mail.

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Have you signed the form?

T A P E

REQUEST FOR PLATTE COUNTY ABSENTEE BALLOT

I, _____, do hereby request an absentee ballot for the _____ (date) Election.

For identification purposes, the last four digits of my social security number are _____.
If the election is a primary election, please print the name of the political party ballot you wish to receive _____.

NOTE: If you registered by mail or online, and this is your first time voting you must provide a copy of one of the following: nonexpired Missouri driver's license; Nonexpired or nonexpiring Missouri nondriver's license; a document issued by the United States or State of Missouri which contains the name matching the most recent signature on voter record **and** shows a photograph of the voter, **and** includes an expiration date and is not expired, or, if expired, the document expired after the date of the most recent general election; or any id with a photograph issued by MO National Guard, the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Space Force, or the US Dept of Veteran Affairs to a member or former member of the MO National Guard, the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Space Force, and that this does not have an expiration date.

Reason for requesting an absentee ballot:

- _____ (1) Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which registered to vote;
- _____ (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability **on election day**, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability **and resides at the same address**;
- _____ (3) Religious belief or practice;
- _____ (4) Employment as:
 - (a) An election authority, as a member of an election authority, or by an election authority at a location other than your polling place; or
 - (b) A first responder; or
 - (c) A health care worker; or
 - (d) A member of law enforcement;
- _____ (5) Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained
- _____ (6) Certified participation in the address confidentiality program established under sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of safety concerns.

Current Residential Address:

Address where ballot is to be mailed, if different than Residential address:

Daytime Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

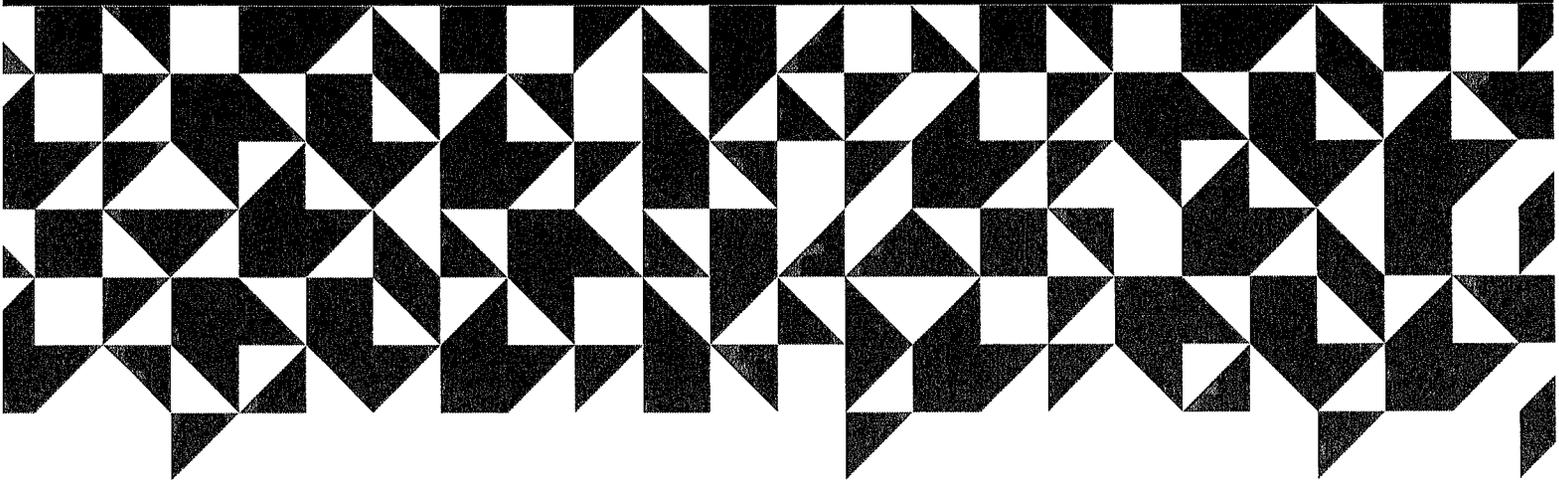
I do solemnly swear that all statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Signature of Voter

Date

All requests **must be received** by the Board of Election's office **no later that 5:00 p.m., the second Wednesday prior to election day.**

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



City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, the 11th day of December, 2025

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

The regular meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, originally scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2025, was postponed, by Notice, to Thursday, December 11, 2025 - in order to ensure a quorum would be present.

The regular meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Sarah Schofield on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 6:33 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Schofield.

Mayor Schofield appointed Jennifer Heese as the newest Alderman. Heese was sworn in by City Clerk Shepard.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Beshears moved to approve the 11/12/25 City Council Meeting minutes. Olson 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval (with Heese abstaining).

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Riverside Fire Department Report - Keith Payne, Assistant Fire Chief, reported three medical calls (one in October and two in November). He indicated Santa would be touring Houston Lake on the pumper truck on December 18.

Platte Co Sheriff's Report- Sgt William Beeler reported ten calls for service in November for a total of 36.92 hours: 1 abandoned auto, 1 fraud, 2 parking complaints, two suspicious person-vehicles, 3 traffic stops, and 1 trespass. He indicated they can offer citations for parking complaints. The fraud incident was discussed briefly since it regarded attempted activity within the City's General Fund bank account. Sgt Beeler indicated he would follow up.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - none

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (VGHA) REPORT

Mary Head reported no public VGHA meeting in December. The deadline to submit news of any kind for the January edition of the Houston Laker is December 22, 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports dated 11/30/25 were reviewed and accepted as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Residential Backyard Hens Ordinance - a revised draft of a proposed ordinance and application was presented and discussed. It was noted that both the City and the VGHA currently have restrictions regarding chickens. It was stated that if and when this ordinance passes, a meeting of the VGHA would need to be held in order to discuss and approve a lifting of the restrictions regarding chickens currently contained in the VGHA Restrictions before chickens could be approved in Houston Lake. Mayor Schofield invited Alderman and the public to send her any questions/concerns etc., prior to the draft ordinance and application are sent to the City's attorney for review. 2026 Election and Proposals - City Clerk Shepard reminded the deadline to declare candidacy for Alderman is the 30th of December. She is researching on behalf of the Council, by consulting the Missouri Municipal League, any possibility of expanding the tax levy usage to more than simply for fire protection. She will report any research at the January meeting. Alderman Loring mentioned, if we want a Sales and Use Tax that benefits Houston Lake, a rate should be determined. Loring moved to set the Houston Lake Sales Tax rate at 1.25%. Beshears seconded. A voice vote resulted in approval. The City's attorney will be consulted for the language needed for this item to be placed on the April ballot for consideration by the public.

There was a pause in the agenda (Beshears needed to leave this meeting early) in order to discuss the next City Council meeting due to potential scheduling conflicts. Council agreed to move the Wednesday, January 14, 2026 meeting to the following Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Short Term Rentals - a draft document entitled "Owning Property and Utilizing It As A Short-Term Rental In The City Of Houston Lake" was presented for discussion. Mayor Schofield explained this draft is intended to begin a discussion around the possible regulation of Short Term Rentals in the City of Houston Lake. It is a jumping off place to help determine what might be included in a future ordinance, if one is eventually determined to be needed. Discussion - both Council and Public. Mayor Schofield asked the public to review this document and offer comments/suggestions, etc. Repurpose of City Owned Property - a map was displayed showing City owned property. Discussion - both Council and Public. Mayor Schofield asked anyone to offer her ideas about the potential use of City owned property and/or submit their ideas on pages displayed at City Hall to notate ideas.

Shepard reminded Council that the 2026 Parks and Recreation Outreach Grant Application is due to be submitted by January 16 which will be before the next Council meeting. Olson moved to approve the submission of the Outreach Grant Application (subject to review of the application before submission). Loring seconded. A voice vote resulted in approval (Beshears had left the meeting so he was not included in this vote.) The Council's Letter of Approval will be circulated for signature prior to January 16, 2026.

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

Shepard reported a new General Fund account has been opened due to fraudulent activity in the current account. Online bill pay will begin as soon as it is set up - rather than mailing payments out - to help avoid possible future fraud. There is a second resident request for rental of City Hall for a private party. Can Long Term Rental guidelines be considered along with the Short Term Rental guidelines previously discussed during the meeting. Mayor Schofield wants to include, in communication with the City Attorney - can a percentage of properties used for business purposes be stipulated?

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Olson asked about the misplaced City Hall parking bumper - it has been found and will be replaced. What was sewer/water work being performed on Adrian? No one knew. Mayor will attempt to learn what this work regarded. She fixed the wheel for the City's trailer and will be installing it. She is looking into solar speed signs. Loring wanted to be reminded why trees in our community are marked - it is an Evergy project. She thanked Schofield and Brendan Brousseau for recent work on the City Hall Garage. Heese is excited to join the Council. She and Johnny Nava worked on the outdoor holiday ornaments project. Beshears - no report.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Schofield thanked Brendan Brousseau for helping with the reorganization of the City Hall Garage. Sean Edwards (snow removal vendor) has sealed, at his own cost, the left side garage floor of the City Hall Garage ahead of placing salt there. He will also return the parking bumper back in place. We are still waiting for the speed sign to be returned for use in Houston Lake. We have not yet received data from the first time it was placed here this past summer. She is working with MODOT and still hopes they will repair the spillway.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 01/26/2026

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, 2025 to December 31, 2025 statement was reviewed and approved by the Council at the City Council Meeting on 01/26/26.

City of Houston Lake
Condensed Statement of Income and Expenditures
Beginning July 1, 2025 and Ending December 31, 2025

	General Fund	Road Fund	Grinder Pump Fund	Fire Protection Fund	Municipal Court	Municipal Court Bond	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	BUDGET
BALANCE AS OF 07/01/25	170,734.03	22,163.03	6,031.61	38,947.14	1,468.01	519.75	239,863.57	
INCOME & RECEIPTS								
Bonds, Permits & Fees	1,031.53						1,031.53	800
HL Sewer / Trash	9,181.01						9,181.01	139,698
Municipal Court Fines	2,060.00						2,060.00	7,000
Parkville Road District		2,696.03					2,696.03	2,800
City Hall Rental	175.00						175.00	
Property Tax (PP/RE/GP/FP)	4,390.73						4,390.73	26,297
Railroad & Utility Tax							0.00	1,800
Grinder Pump Tax							0.00	38,400
Special Tax Levy - Fire Protection							0.00	28,994
Transportation Sales Tax	16,568.27	460.21					16,568.27	17,500
Utility Franchise Tax		6,999.61					6,999.61	42,000
Vehicle Tax Rebates							0.00	12,000
VGHOA Reimbursement							0.00	2,500
Interest Earned	66.37	13.43	22.83	187.22			289.85	910
Donation for pothole repairs		100.00					100.00	
General Fund CD cashed	25,066.49						25,066.49	
Sewer Fund CD cashed	16,324.99						16,324.99	
Mill & Overlay CD cashed	16,946.03						16,946.03	
Fire Protection Services							0.00	28,994
BOW Fraudulent Activity	7,761.02						7,761.02	
Credit memos to close Acct	4,084.28						4,084.28	
Open New General Fund Acct	75,229.44						75,229.44	
Correct acctg error	288.37						288.37	
Transfer from Fire Fund Reserve							0.00	4,056
Transfer from General Fund Reserve							0.00	29,550
Transfer from Road Fund							0.00	
TOTAL INCOME & RECEIPTS	179,173.53	10,269.28	22.83	187.22	0.00	0.00	189,652.86	383,299
DISBURSEMENTS								
Attorney/Actg/Codifying	1,824.08						1,824.08	6,000
Bond, Permit & Building Inspections	100.00						100.00	
Bridge							0.00	40,500
City Hall Utilities	1,885.47						1,885.47	3,950
Court - Domestic Shelter	36.00						36.00	100
Court - Law Enforcement Training	36.00						36.00	100
Election Expenses							0.00	800

Houston Lake Homeowners Association

19Nov2025 - HOA Working Meeting

Roll Call:

- Pamela Freese - Present
- Monica Beshears - Absent
- Josh Williams - Present
- Don Miller - Present
- Mary Head - Present
- Shelly Broll (Minutes)



VOTES/Old Business:

- 25Oct2025 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved by all present Board members.

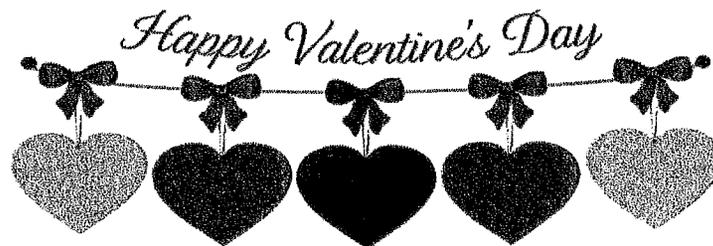
Current Business:

- Property Updates:
 - Don will look into the property owner of the small blue cabin on Venetian Drive.
 - Bio-pod Updates:
 - 4 additional bio-pods were installed last weekend. The HOA would like to thank the following residents for use of their property:
 - Teena Walker-Robin
 - Lisa Shepard
 - Andrea Dusek
 - Christine & Kerry Fithen
 - Pam will work with Rich Baum (co-owner Rigero) to determine reimbursement for homeowner electricity use for bio-pods – all homeowners have agreed to annual reimbursement.
 - Pam will send HOA paperwork on letterhead to the 4 homeowners for their records and document for future HOA Boards' records for reference.
 - Lessons Learned from current bio-pod placement - Survey homeowner properties prior to scheduling the installation to ensure appropriate underground lines/pipes are marked and proper outlets are available and/or installed.
 - Pam will put out Reminder to residents to put bio-pods back in the water if taken out for any reason and include photos, definitions for the aerators vs. nests and instructions for what to do should a resident come across one of the pods/nets.
 - Meetings – There will be no public meetings in December or January. There will be a Board member working meeting in January via Zoom.
 - Lake Cleanup
-

Houston Lake Homeowners Association

- The Board will develop a lake clean-up plan during the working meeting in Dec/Jan to present to the community in March.
- The semi-annual HOA public meeting will be held in April.
- Spring cleanup will focus on cutting back honey suckle, brush on the peninsula and damn and removing debris from the water at the damn and boat ramp with additional projects to be determined during the next working meeting. Information will be posted in the Laker.
- Financial Update – Submitted by Don Miller
 - Results of the annual Audit Report Date Oct 6, 2024 (see below): The Audit Committee finds the records are correct. Don suggested including the document (without signatures) in the Laker. Approved by all present Board Members.
 - Don presented the October 31 financial reports. The cash balance is \$90,455. Significant cash outlays for the month of October were \$19,995 for bio-pod purchase and installation and \$3,741 for insurance. These were partially offset by the collection of one past due member account in the amount of \$7,518.
 - Don suggested including the Fiscal Year-End (Sept 30, 2025) financial report and the approved annual budget for 2025-26 in the Laker - Approved by all present Board Members.
 - Don suggested sending out monthly financial updates in the Laker starting next month (December) – Approved by all present Board Members.
 - Don will work on developing communication to attach to the 2026 annual dues statements clarifying that per the current Bylaws, annual HOA dues are “due upon receipt of statement and past due on March 1”. Late payment penalty will apply to any payment received after March 1. Mary will include information in the December and January Lakers.
- City Garage Update
 - The City and HOA worked together to clean out and organize the City Hall garage

Minutes approved on Jan. 28, 2026



BUILD THE BRIDGE!

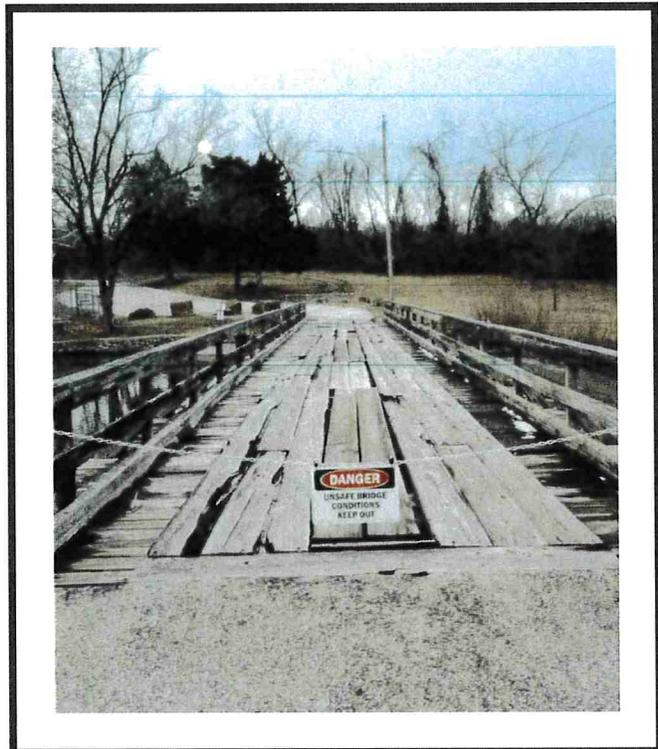
SAVE THE DATE - SHOW UP TO SUPPORT

The City of Houston Lake has applied for an outreach grant through the Platte County Parks and Recreation department aimed at repairing the bridge for walking and biking purposes. This grant has been shortlisted for consideration, joining a range of other candidates vying for the funds.

A Q&A meeting is scheduled to allow potential grant recipients to answer questions from the board. There will not be formal presentations this year.

The city encourages all residents who can attend to do so, demonstrating that it is not just a city seeking funding, but a community eager to rebuild together.

We are on the agenda for 6:18pm but it could be earlier.



**Tuesday, February 10, 2026
beginning at 5:45 pm**

**Location: County Commission Meeting Room
415 Third Street, Platte City, MO 64079
on the 2nd floor of the admin building.**



**for more information
contact city council**

city-council@houstonlake.gov
HOUSTONLAKE.GOV