

Since March 1957 - Edition 68

May 2025 Issue

HOUSTON LAKER



*The Beautiful
Spring Trees of
Houston Lake.
Left Magnolia Tree
Right Crabapple Tree*



*City of Houston Lake Board Members Left to Right:
Lisa A. Shepard, City clerk, Sarah Schofield, Mayor
Sarah Loring, Alderman, Marsha Duncan, Alderman,
Jesse Beshears, Alderman
& not pictured Ashley Fuglestadf, Alderman*

**2025 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.

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.

2025 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 Day –No
Change pick up will be on
Wednesday November 26th

December 25th Christmas
Day –No Change pickup will
be on Wednesday
December 24th

Recycling Dates
(2nd Wednesday)

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

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 (816) 741-5639

Lake Life
May Events

11th - Mother's Day

12th – **Spring Brush
cleanup. We are
pleased to announce
that this year;
residential brush
cleanup will be offered
twice – once in the
spring and again in the
fall, with leaves
included!**

14th - City of Houston Lake
meeting 6:30pm City Hall

14th - Recycling Day

19th - **NO** HOA meeting

26th - Memorial Day

Houston Lake History

Book 68 pages of the
History of Houston Lake.
\$5.00 each. Email Mary at
maryjewel40@gmail.com
or call (816)741-5639

*A Big Thank you to
Marsha Duncan for
printing the May
front cover in color.*

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

Sarah Loring
sw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Ashley Fuglestad
sw1-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Jesse Beshears
nw2-alderman@houstonlake.gov

Marsha Duncan
Mduncan@houstonlake.gov

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, events and by appointment.

Venetian Gardens Homes

Association 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

**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**

Warning - Warning



*If you hear or see anything suspicious on Houston Lake
call the
Platte County Sheriff's Office at: 816-858-3521*

On April 19, 2025 at 3 a.m. two boys broke into Jake Arial's car, reprogrammed it and drove it down by the walking bridge where it automatically shut off. Josh Williams heard them and started yelling at them. They ran across the bridge and stole another car.

The Police was called and they brought in a drone to try and catch them without any luck

Spring Brush Cleanup – May 12th

We are pleased to announce that this year, residential brush cleanup will be offered twice—once in the spring and again in the fall, with leaves included! Crawford Climbers will be conducting a citywide brush pickup on **May 12th**.

To participate, please pile any limbs at the end of your driveway by **Monday, May 12th**. They will collect logs less than 10 inches in diameter and leaves placed in biodegradable bags. Additionally, they will be clearing overhanging limbs from the streets during this time.

In response to recent storm damage, the city will be addressing hazardous trees on residential properties to ensure the safety of the community. We encourage residents to be proactive and schedule services in advance to secure the best rates. If you have trees on your property that require attention, we recommend contacting Crawford Climbers ahead of time for the most affordable pricing.

Purchase Your 2025 Season Pool Passes!

Hello Summer!

Season Passes are available for purchase at the Community Center:
4498 NW High Drive, Riverside, MO 64150

Season Pass Type	Resident Rate	Non-Resident Rate
Family	\$75.00	\$100.00
Single	\$50.00	\$65.00

To qualify for the "Family" season pass your household may consist of one of the following. (Please note all people must reside in the same household).

- a) 2 adults* with up to 11 children
- b) 1 adult* with up to 12 children

*Adult(s) = aged 24 & up

Capacity

The overall capacity of the aquatic center is 125 people. The maximum capacity of the pool will vary depending on the number of lifeguards on duty. The pool capacity will generally be 75 people with 4 guards present. Capacity will be posted at the pool each day.

CITY OF
RIVERSIDE

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

As residents of Houston Lake, your waste management and recycling services are provided by Republic Services, a trusted partner for many years. With the upcoming renewal of our contract, it's important for residents to understand how these services are structured and how we can work together to maintain cost-effective and efficient waste management.

Current Service Arrangement

Currently, residents pay for both sewer and trash services through their tax bill, which the City of Houston Lake administers. The city then compensates the KC Sewer Department and Republic Services on behalf of all residents. This arrangement helps keep individual costs low, as the city acts as the account administrator rather than KC Sewer and Republic Services directly billing households.

Republic Services - Trash and Recycling Pickup

- **Trash Pickup:** 125 trash cans are collected weekly (one can per household).
- **Recycling Pickup:** 125 recycling cans are collected monthly (one can per household).

Republic Services offers two recycling pickup options: once a month or weekly. Discussions are ongoing to determine the best schedule for our community.

The Benefits of City-Administered Billing

By having the city manage billing, we avoid the potential for increased costs associated with individual household billing. If Republic Services were to bill each household directly, costs would rise due to the number of cans picked up and the administrative expenses related to billing and collections.

How You Can Help

To maintain our current rates and service levels, residents are encouraged to participate in the following:

1. **Recycling and Trash Cans:** Each home should place only one trash can at the street each week, and only one recycle can at the street each month.
2. **Consolidate Recycling and Trash Cans:** If you have multiple cans, return any extras to City Hall for storage. This helps us stay within our contracted limit of 125 cans. Please email the city clerk at cityclerk@houstonlake.gov if you need to return a can(s).
3. **Report Broken Cans:** New or replacement cans will soon be available at City Hall. Especially, if you have a damaged can, please exchange it promptly. Communicate your needs to the city clerk at cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

By working together, we can ensure that Houston Lake continues to enjoy cost-effective and reliable waste management services. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to cityclerk@houstonlake.gov and your comments, etc. will be shared with the Houston Lake City Council for consideration. Your involvement and cooperation are greatly appreciated!

Houston Lake Community Garden Update

I am excited to announce that the planting of the garden has begun. Our new neighbor Jennifer Heese planted radishes, Little Gem lettuce, leaf lettuce, chives, Swiss chard, arugula, spinach, and cilantro. Thank you Jennifer!

Tuesday myself, Heidi, Vox and Monica Montalvo- Beshears mulched and planted 2 sections of green beans in the third bed. The last section of beans will be planted the first part of next week to stagger the harvest.

My seedlings are looking really healthy this year. Sweet peppers, Jalapeños, basil and Malabar spinach will be transplanted in moss pots and then will be planted in the garden in the next 2 weeks or so along with tomatoes and the pole beans. Jennifer told me that marigold seeds sprinkled in the bottom of tomato plants help with their growth. We're going to try it!

Please keep in mind that the Community Garden is for everyone that lives in Houston Lake. It's your garden....whether you help plant, harvest, pick weeds, donate or none of the above. It is yours to share and enjoy.

Thank you,

Marsha Duncan

**Please contact me at any time if you have any questions
mduncannkc@aol.com 816.419.5051**

Cheesy Ranch Spinach Bites

2 tsp vegetable oil
¼ cup dried minced onion
2 large eggs (lightly beaten)
½ cup Ranch dressing
¼ cup butter, melted
½ tsp garlic powder
1 pkg (10 oz) frozen chopped spinach
(thawed and squeezed dry)
1 pkg (8 ½ oz) cornbread muffin mix
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

- 1. In a large bowl combine eggs, salad dressing, butter, garlic powder until blended. Stir in spinach, muffin mix, cheddar cheese and onion until combined.**
 - 2. Fill greased mini muffin cups two-thirds full. Bake at 350 degrees until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 10-12 minutes. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan.**
- Serve warm with additional ranch dressing if desired.**
Enjoy!

Don't Forget Your Missouri Fishing License and a Houston Lake "2025 Wristband"!!

Lake Residents from the age of 16 through 64 need a Missouri Fishing License and a Houston Lake 2025 Wristband in order to fish in Houston Lake. Residents 65 and over need only a 2025 Wristband.

No Fishing in the Beach Area.

To get your 2025 Wristbands call Homes Association Board Member, Mary Head at 816-741-5639 or email maryjewel40@gmail.com

The Wristbands are FREE if your Homes Association dues are paid.

Guests of Residents must have that Residents 2025 Wristband with them when they are on or around the lake and on Homes Association property.

Homes Association Rules and Regulations

1. Lake tags will be issued to lot owners who have paid the current years Homes Association fee. Lot owners will be responsible for all wristbands issued to their property.
2. Lake Wristband must be worn by Residents, Lot Owners or Guests. Wristband should be visible.
3. Private property. No trespassing. Residents, lot owners and guests only.
4. Property owners are responsible for the conduct and actions of their guest at all times.
5. No DIVING from the Swimming Docks because of shallow water.
6. No. swimming after 9:00p.m.
7. Alcohol will not be allowed in the beach area.
8. Animals will not be allowed in the beach area.
9. Fishing will not be allowed in the swimming area.
10. No disorderly conduct.
11. All Rules and Regulations of the Missouri State Conservation Commission will apply.
12. No trot lines, jug lines or unattended fishing lines are permitted.
13. All Terrain Vehicles, motor bikes, motor cycles and motor scooters are prohibited from operating on Homes Association property.

PLEASE NOTE: Houston Lake is dedicated to preventing the spreading of Zebra Mussels. If you want to launch your boat into our lake, you must call no less than 12 hrs. ahead so that your boat maybe inspected. You must also have a lake wristband, watercraft safety equipment (life vests) and adhere to lake rules.

This applies to NEW boaters. However, safety equipment applies to ALL boaters.

Community Open House Success!

The recent Community Open House held on April 19th was a resounding success, bringing together residents for a day of connection, education, and community engagement. Hosted by the Venetian Gardens Homes Association (VGHA) and the City of Houston Lake, the event served as a platform for community members to meet, exchange ideas, and learn about initiatives that impact their daily lives.

With an impressive turnout, the Open House provided an opportunity for residents, fondly referred to as "Lakers," to mingle and enjoy refreshments. It was heartwarming to see both newcomers and longtime residents come together to strengthen the bonds within our community.

Several local groups, including the Art Circle, Houston Laker, and Community Garden, shared valuable information about their activities and upcoming events. These sessions not only highlighted the vibrant community life in Houston Lake but also encouraged residents to participate more actively in local initiatives.

The VGHA teamed up with Rigero, the developers of the innovative biopod, to address questions regarding the lake and ongoing silt cleanup efforts. This collaboration underscored the community's commitment to environmental sustainability. Residents were informed about Lake cleanup days and were encouraged to contribute to daily efforts in maintaining the beauty and health of the lake.

City Clerk Lisa Shepard played a pivotal role in coordinating with Republic Services for the event. Republic Services representatives and a demonstration truck highlighted the importance of proper can placement for waste collection efficiency. Furthermore, the event sparked meaningful conversations around single-sort recycling, reflecting the community's growing interest in sustainable waste management practices.

In an effort to align future initiatives with community needs, attendees were asked to participate in a satisfaction survey. The feedback collected will provide the City Council with valuable insights into residents' priorities and areas of interest, ensuring that future actions are in tune with the community's expectations.

The success of the Community Open House has set a positive tone for the remainder of the year. Both the City and VGHA are excited to host more events that foster community spirit and engagement. These gatherings are vital in creating a cohesive and supportive community where every resident feels safe, valued and heard.

Dear Houston Lake Residents, its Spring Cleaning time! After this long cold winter and we all come outside and enjoy this beautiful weather this is a really good time to take a good hard look at the outside our homes.

Some of the Code Violations that get written up the most often in the spring and summer include, rubbish, garbage and junk, untagged vehicles, trash cans and grass and weeds.

Basically, the rubbish, garbage and junk ordinance entails is that anything that is stored outside needs to be outdoor items, including grills, outdoor furniture, toys, bicycles and other items that are deemed for outdoor use. These items should be stored in a neat and orderly manner.

What should **NOT** be stored outside, including in open car ports, are cardboard boxes, plastic totes, upholstered furniture, items that can be blown around by the wind, exercise equipment and any other items that are deemed to be for indoor use.

The Rubbish, Garbage and Junk ordinance also includes brush, firewood not being stored properly, and tree branches.

The City of Houston Lake does not allow any vehicles to be parked within city limits without a legal tag. The City also requests that you not completely dismantle your car and rebuild it unless it is in an enclosed garage. This also applies to having car repair business on your property without proper authorization.

Yes, of course, you can change your oil, do minor repairs, and general maintenance on your vehicle.

The City requests that you pull your trash cans back to the house no later than 8:00 PM the evening that your trash is collected. Not only does leaving your trash can(s) along the street look bad, it can cause a serious traffic issue. So please, be respectful of your neighbors and get those trash can pulled back from the street as early as you can.

And of course, we have to cover tall grass and weeds. Please make sure you are not allowing your grass to grow 18 inches or higher. This includes areas along the streets and culverts. This does not only include grass and weeds, this also includes tree starts, bushes, over growth, invasive plants and noxious weeds. We don't want to lose the natural look of our community we just want to make sure that the yards are well maintained and that vehicles can drive along the streets without damage.

Section 235.80. Rubbish Garbage and Junk.

All Exterior property and premises and the interior of every structure shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage or junk.

Section 235.060 G: Motor Vehicles:

Except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept, or stored on any premises and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.

Section 230.030. Collection of Solid Waste.

- C. Solid waste containers as required by this Chapter for the storage of residential solid waste shall be placed at curbside for collection but shall not be so placed until after 6:00 P.M. on the day next preceding the regularly scheduled collection day. Containers shall be removed from curbside no later than 8:00 P.M. on the day of collection. No alley service shall be allowed under the terms of this Chapter, except as approved by the Board of Aldermen.

Section 215.110. Weeds, High Grass or Other Vegetation.

- A. Failure To Keep Weeds, High Grass And Other Vegetation Cut And Removed, A Nuisance. All persons owning or occupying any lot or tract of land in the City shall keep the weeds, high grass and other vegetation growing on such property cut and removed. Whenever such weeds, high grass or other vegetation shall attain the height of eighteen (18) inches, it shall be deemed a public nuisance. After the City has proceeded once with notice and abatement procedures under Subsections (D) through (F) of this Section with respect to a particular lot or tract of land, weeds, high grass or other vegetation exceeding six (6) inches may be deemed a public nuisance.

Please make sure you have **house numbers** on your house. This makes it easier for emergency services to find you if you need them. The response from fire and police when asked how they find the proper address when they get a call out for an emergency, "They just have to search for the correct address" Please don't take a chance on them having to search for you when you need them as fast as possible. City Ordinance requires that the house numbers be no less the four inches in height, more if they cannot be seen from the street.

Section 235.070 Exterior Structure

- A. Premises Identification. Buildings shall have address numbers assigned by the City placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of four (4) inches high with a minimum stroke width of one-half (0.5) inch.

We all have a responsibility to the community and our neighbors to follow these ordinances. Not only does it improve the look of the community, they keep the community safer, keep vermin like snakes and mice away from your home, and it can raise property value.

School Bus Travel Halted Over Dam

By Dennis R. Ockerstrom
A Member of The Star's Staff

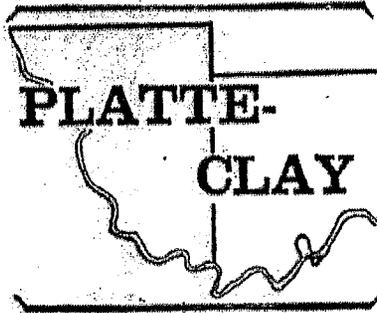
School busses will no longer cross the dam at Houston Lake because of the dangerous narrow roadway and lack of guard rails, the Park Hill School Board agreed last night.

The action was taken, effective tomorrow, after letters from the bus company and the company's insurance agency outlining the hazardous conditions were received by the board. The first complaints were aired in October by bus drivers of Platte Transportation, Inc., a division of R. W. Harmon & Sons, Inc.

The city council of Houston Lake was notified last month by the school board of the conditions and the council agreed to install a guard rail capable of stopping a sliding bus. Nothing has been done and the school board last night, on a motion by David C. Whipple, voted to halt school bus service across the dam until adequate railings are installed.

On Nov. 3, following complaints from bus drivers, the insurance agency of the bus company advised them of a report made by a safety engineer, Thomas E. Schaeffer, Jr.

"It is my opinion that a definite hazard exists from the



mere operation of the school busses in the Houston Lake area because of the hilly terrain, reduced line-of-sight vision, narrow 2-lane road and operation of the busses over the dam" Schaeffer wrote.

Schaeffer suggested installation of barriers on both sides of the dam capable of preventing a school bus from going over the side, installation of overhead lighting along the dam and stop signs at both ends.

Delbert Rustman, general manager of Harmon Company, also inspected the Houston Lake roadway.

"I feel that the bridge is as safe as possible for any 1-way, wooden bridge. The roadway itself is not particularly dangerous other than its narrow width and the fact that it is fairly close to deep water. Any real danger would arise from a bus leaving the road and entering the lake. I shudder to think of the potentially tragic conse-

quences of such an accident," he wrote.

Following a meeting with the Houston Lake City Council and the school board the council agreed to install the needed barriers and the board would supply railroad ties to be anchored. However the city apparently was unable to anchor the ties that were then to be drilled and a cable strung between them.

Dr. James J. Harmon, superintendent, said he had been informed that the city would need 140 railroad ties placed horizontally as a curb instead of as a guard rail. This was unsatisfactory, the board agreed, and voted to suspend school bus operation until corrective measures are taken.

Harold G. Fincher, director of transportation, said 10 busses a day cross the narrow dam but he did not have an estimate of how many children were involved. Because of overcrowding in the district many schools are on split sessions and the busses are in operation from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. he said. Early and late busses must be driven in the dark, he noted, adding to the danger.

Children affected by the bus suspension will have to walk to other areas of the lake that can be reached without crossing the dam.

A Story FROM GENE

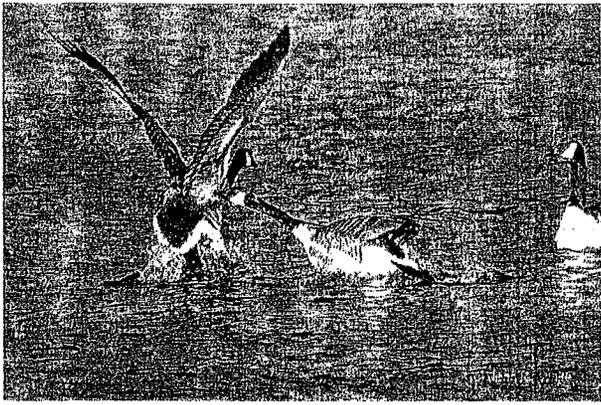
CHARLES

How can breaking a vow cause so much grief?

When I was on a 5 day Train trip to Camp Stoneman, shipping out point for overseas deployment just north of "Frisco", my first stop was Memphis where I had an 8 hour layover. I window shopped, saw 2 movies (I think) and still had lots of time to kill. I was so tired and wanted to find a place to sit and rest. I saw some bars and thought I could sit there for quite a spell if I drank only one beer-I vowed, I didn't consider that I was not legal age to drink. I'm not a beer drinker but would only occasionally drink one 3.2% beer at the PX on base with someone. In the bar I slowly drank only one beer and was ready to leave when a guy started talking to me and bought me a beer. Of course, I had to return the favor. Finally, I made my way to the train station where a couple of good Samaritans got me aboard. The next thing I was aware of was that I had the key to the locker in Memphis with my duffle bag full of GI clothes. Maybe the good Samaritans were not so good after all. My first thought was, I had to go back to Memphis. But I put the key and some cash in an envelope

addressed to the Station Master requesting that my luggage to be sent to Camp Stoneman. I mailed it from Little Rock, our next stop. At Dallas a guy boarded that was going my way. At El Paso we had a long layover so we went through some dark and spooky streets to the USO to kill time. By the time we got to California we traveled down into Mexico for most of the day and I don't recall that we ever stopped. At LAX we had another long layover. Finally, we arrived at "Frisco" then to Camp Stoneman. I had been wearing the only uniform I had for 5 days on the train plus 10 or more days there. The weather was ideal to my liking and I thought the chow was excellent and I was always hungry. For the first time in my life I actually gained weight. Every day I walked to the train station to check on my clothes. Finally, my duffle bag arrived. It took me 5 days to get there but at 3 times as long for my luggage. The 64K question is why? The very next day they took inventory of our government issues and we had to buy any missing items. It was sobering to even think of buying all of that stuff. We were issued a back pack, carbine, steel helmet and liner, and an ammo belt with a canteen. I had all of that plus my duffle bag to carry.

The night before we left, many of us were gathered out in front of the barracks watching 6 black airmen doing some razzle dazzle monkey drills on the street. Someone said there was a TV show on. I had only heard of a TV but I just looked for a few seconds then thought there was a better show outside. I was among the advance party that boarded the *William O Darby* – a merchant ship a day early. We performed all, of the work detail duties. A lot of the guys who did nothing got sea sick – I never did. Three of us washed the dinner trays in what they called a clipper. It was like working in a sauna. By the time we arrived at Manila after 19 days I'm sure I had lost the weight that I gained at Camp Stoneman and have never gained it back.



The Impact of Goose Droppings on Small Lakes: Remedies and Benefits of Egg Addling

Have you ever visited a serene small lake only to be greeted by an unpleasant sight and smell of goose fecal matter littering the shoreline? The presence of geese in these areas can have a detrimental impact on the ecosystem, particularly the water quality and overall biodiversity of the lake. In this article, we will delve into the effects of goose droppings on small lakes, explore effective remedies to mitigate the issue, and shed light on the benefits of egg addling as a proactive solution.

Understanding the Problem

Small lakes serve as vital habitats for various flora, water fowl, aquatic life and fauna, playing a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. However, when geese congregate in these areas, their excessive droppings can lead to an overabundance of nutrients in the water, resulting in a phenomenon known as eutrophication. This process accelerates algae growth, depletes oxygen levels, and ultimately harms aquatic life.

The Negative Impact of Goose Fecal Matter

The high nitrogen and phosphorus content in goose droppings can trigger algal blooms, creating a greenish film on the lake's surface and reducing water clarity. As the algae multiply rapidly, they consume oxygen during decomposition, leading to oxygen-deprived zones where fish and other aquatic organisms struggle to survive. Additionally, the accumulation of fecal matter along the shoreline poses health risks to humans and pets.

Remedies to Combat the Issue

To address the problem of goose fecal matter in small lakes, various strategies can be implemented. The HOA board is addressing these by our bio-health pod systems at the beach area which use enzymes to balance the water chemistry with enzymes. Another effective approach the board is looking into is habitat modification, such as erecting barriers or planting vegetation to deter geese from congregating near the water. Another method involves implementing humane deterrents like visual repellents or sound devices to discourage geese from settling in the area. The HOA currently uses launchers with bangers and screechers to deter a high interloping geese population. Additionally, regular maintenance and cleanup efforts can help minimize the accumulation of droppings and maintain water quality.

The Role of Egg Addling

Egg addling, a practice endorsed by wildlife management authorities, involves the removal and treatment of goose eggs to prevent them from hatching. By intervening in the reproduction cycle of geese, egg addling helps control the population growth of these birds and reduces the overall impact of goose droppings on small lakes. This proactive measure offers a humane and sustainable solution to managing geese populations.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the presence of goose fecal matter in small lakes can have far-reaching consequences on water quality and aquatic ecosystems. By understanding the negative impact of goose droppings and implementing effective remedies such as the bio-health pod systems, habitat modification and egg addling, we can mitigate the environmental damage caused by these birds and preserve the ecological balance of small lakes for future generations to enjoy. Let us strive to coexist harmoniously with nature and protect the fragile beauty of our natural landscapes. And of course, do not feed the geese. *The Canada geese are federally protected wildlife, please do not harm them.*

The HOA is committed to the ethical use of addling for goose population control. If you do not wish the Addling Team to disturb nests on your property, please call Pam Freese or email her.

For people to contact if they see goose nests around the lake to please contact one of these HOA board Members.

President Pam Freese = 816-726-4455 or email "venetian.gardens.homes.assoc@gmail.com"

Secretary Monica Beshears = 573-356-4118 or email "weety30@gmail.com"

Board Member Mary Head = 816-741-5639 or email "maryjewel40@gmail.com"

Please Do Not Feed the Geese

Why we do not feed the geese. They become reliant on human food and abandon their natural nutrition sources, which may cause health issues. In addition, they become accustomed to human activity and will use the park and beach as their restroom.

Goose Population Control

Goose egg addling has started in March. Chuck and Laura are walking around both on the North and South side of the lake. Please do not be alarm as they will be looking for nests, near the shores, weekly for several weeks.

Houston Lake is a private lake. The Homes Association (VGHA) owns the lake itself and the private parklands within the city limits and is responsible for managing those properties. It is a crucial role in preserving these natural spaces and contributing to the overall charm and health of Houston Lake. Association Members are the stewards of our lake, responsible for dredging, managing the vegetation in and around the water, and stocking the lake with fish, among other things.

The Board of Directors of the VGHA are elected by the Membership to serve two-year terms. Members have one vote per household. Renting residents are not eligible to vote. Lake tags are issued when the yearly dues are paid. You must keep your lake tags with you when using the parks or the lake for fishing, swimming, or boating.

The Swim Beach Area is for Members and guests only. The Rules are posted at the beach area. Please observe those rules. No dogs, alcohol, littering, trespassing, or disorderly conduct is permitted. No fishing is allowed in the beach area. The water is tested monthly to ensure safe swimming. The beach area closes at 9 pm and no swimming or parking is allowed there after that time. Please use the trash containers and help to keep the area clean.

City of Houston Lake Animal Registration

Please complete the following registration for a dog or cat and submit to the City Clerk of the City of Houston Lake. The form can be mailed to City Clerk 5417 NW Adrian Avenue, Houston Lake, MO 64151 or emailed to cityclerk@houstonlake.gov.

In accordance with Chapter 205, section 205.020 all dogs and cats:

The owner or keeper of any dog or cat in the City of Houston Lake is hereby required to have such animals vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian and to procure a certificate of such vaccination from the veterinarian and to present such certificate to the City Clerk on or before May first (1st) of each year; and the City Clerk shall register such certificate, which registration shall remain in force until the April thirtieth (30th) next following said registration. It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog or cat to permit such animal to remain in the City of Houston Lake unless vaccinated as above provided. (Chapter 205 Animal Regulations is included for your information)

Owner (Last Name, First Name) _____

Phone (for emergency contact) _____

Street Address: (where animal is being harbored) _____

Mailing Address: (if different from street address) _____

Canine Name _____ Breed _____

Feline Color _____ DOB (or Approx Age) _____

(not required) Microchipped# _____ Tattoo # _____

(not required) Spayed or Neutered Yes No

Rabies Certificate from a licensed veterinarian, animal hospital or facility must be submitted with registration form (Certificate must include date of vaccination, Rabies Tag ID# and specify if dose was 1 or 3 year - or other)

Owner's Signature _____ Date _____

*If the owner is less than 18 years of age the parent or guardian shall be deemed the owner of the record and the information must be completed by them.

This section to be completed by the City Clerk upon receipt of the registration form. A copy will be given to the owner and the original will be retained by the City Clerk for record.

Date Registration Reviewed _____ Approved Yes No

Rabies Tag # _____ Date of Vaccination _____
 1Year 3Year Other _____

Licensed Veterinarian/Facility Name _____

(give reason if No)

I attest that the above information has been verified with the certificate of vaccination from a licensed veterinarian, animal hospital or facility on the date registration was received.

Sarah Schofield, City Clerk

Animal Regulations

The City of Houston Lake City Codes states the following: Section 205.030.

Running at Large Prohibited

— Impoundment. It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog or cat to permit the same to run at large within the City of Houston Lake at any time.

Any dog or cat found without the registration provided in Section 205.020, and any dog or cat found running at large, shall be impounded. Section 205.040. Vicious Dogs

Prohibited — Exceptions. A.

It shall be unlawful to own, keep or harbor a vicious dog in the City of Houston Lake except in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Leash and muzzle. No person shall permit a vicious dog to go outside its kennel or pen unless such dog is securely leashed with a leash no longer than four (4) feet in length. No person shall permit a vicious dog to be kept on a chain, rope or other type of leash outside its kennel or pen unless a person is in physical control of the leash. Such dogs may not be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts or buildings. In addition, all vicious dogs on a leash outside its kennel or pen must be muzzled by a

muzzling device sufficient to prevent such dog from biting persons or other animals.

2. Confinement. All vicious dogs shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel, except when leashed and muzzled as above provided. Such pen, kennel or structure must have secure sides and a secure top attached to the sides. All structures used to confine vicious dogs must be locked with a key or combination lock when such dogs are within the structure. Said structure must have a secure bottom or floor attached to the sides of the pen or the sides of the pen must be imbedded in the ground no less than two (2) feet. Also, such structures must be adequately lighted and ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

3. Confinement indoors. No vicious dog may be kept on a porch, patio or any part of a house or structure that would allow the dog to exit such building on its own volition. In addition, no such animal may be kept in a house or structure when the windows are open or when screen windows or screen doors are the only obstacle preventing the dog from exiting the structure.

4. Signs. All owners, keepers or harborers of vicious dogs within the City shall display in a prominent place on their premises a sign easily readable by the public using the words "Beware of Dog". In addition, a similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of such dog.

The Animal Regulations code in its entirety can be requested by contacting the
CityClerk@houstonlake.net

****As Always, be a good neighbor and clean up after your pets, disposing of waste in a proper receptacle.**

Venetian Gardens Homes Association

March 17, 2025, Meeting, 6:30pm, Houston Lake City Hall

Board Members Present: Pam Freese, Mary Head, Monica Beshears and Don

Board Members on Zoom: Frank Wilson, Susan Hodges/Don

Pam Freese called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm

Susan- went over the Income statements, account balances, and Profit and Loss sheets as of the end of February 2025. Susan asked if anyone had any questions regarding the balance sheets. No one had any questions. Susan asked if anyone had questions on what is going on financially. There were no questions by the attendees.

Pam- *addressed our working meeting minutes asking Monica to correct the address on 5304 Wagon Trail Circle. No other corrections were needed for the HOA Working Meeting. Meeting minutes were approved with the address correction made.

*During the working meeting the discussion was made regarding the letter of support for the grant proposal that the city is writing for Platte County funding to repair the Dam Bridge to walk able conditions. The board decided unanimously to do a letter of support.

The other thing that came up was whether or not this was a conflict of interest with Monica being on the HOA board and Jess being on the City Council. The way a conflict of interest was handled was if it directly affects you or your property or your spouse and their property, then you abstain from voting otherwise it's all open for the entire board to vote on. Jess is authoring it and that there is a whole committee writing it as well as other members on the city council are working on it. Pam stated that she felt it was not a conflict of interest and that Monica should have been able to vote on that. It was asked if anyone had any comments. Susan mentioned that there was a similar situation with another couple with one spouse on the city council and one on the HOA board. Lisa stated that everybody is benefiting and no one is benefiting personally from it. Pam and Lisa discussed having something being clarified in the bylaws about the possibility of this happening as we have so few people willing to step into the positions. We should support and facilitate as much as possible.

The discussion moved to the benefit of a financial contribution to the city for the grant proposal from the HOA. Since we have 125 houses, Pam suggested we donate \$1.00 for every house making the contribution \$125.00. It would show that we would not only verbally support the grant but also partner with the city. It is a one time donation and only if the grant is awarded. A vote was taken and it passed unanimously. Pam offered to mail the letter of support or give the letter to Lisa. The check will be held off until the grant proposal passes.

Tree issues - there are 2 on Venetian Dr. that are about to fall into the lake. They are on HOA property and one tree at the end of Johnny Nava's property that is about to fall. It could hit his pontoon boat and or dock. Pam discussed some previous bids that were high. She will get 3 more bids. Lisa mentioned a tree that has fallen by the creek between her house and Victoria's house. Pam will begin getting prices. Pam asked if anyone had contacts. Whitley Tree removal, Casey's Tree's and Urban Tree were mentioned. Frank suggested that Pam take the plot map of Venetian Gardens with her while she walks to check if the property by the creek where Lisa lives is or is not HOA property. Frank also had a contact person for tree removal who did a tree removal for their church at no cost and had reasonable prices. Also, Frank suggested that we get the bids in December and have the tree's cut in January to cut costs as most companies do not have much work during that time.

A brief discussion about the tree that came down on Edgewater and caused a fire and the power to go out about and whether it was on Houston Lake property or Kansas City property. That area seems to be a continual problem. It was mentioned by Lisa that the fire department suggested we send that community's HOA a letter telling them that we'd like them to clear that area as it also affects the silt issue that we have going into the lake.

Pam discussed a conversation that she had with Jake Strobbe stating that the silt fencing is ready to come off, the grass is coming in and everything looks great. She contacted Sean Edwards who will go by to remove that at his earliest convenience. It was also mentioned that he would not take out anything that is not ready.

Lisa- city clerk mentioned the Hills of Walden clubhouse as our new pollen place. It has been posted on the City Hall door and will also be noted in the Houston Laker. Pam- mentioned the importance of voting on April 8th as it pertains to the Fire Protection renewal tax being on the ballot. If it does not pass, the city of Houston lake would not be able to pay Riverside Fire Department as they are our contracted Fire people and affect our Home Owners insurance policy and other important county issues.

A brief discussion regarding whether or not the HOA has maintenance of the equipment for the aerators and Eco Pods and how many there were. Some residents were concerned that some were not working this past Fall and winter. Pam suggested they reach out to her if there are visible issues or concerns regarding the Eco Pods or aerators and she will address them.

Chuck and Laura will be doing the geese egg dipping this year. Residents can reach out to HOA board members to notify them of nests in their yards. It will also be posted in the Houston Laker. Frank mentioned that we also need to be respectful of private property as we have residents that do not wish to have the nests on their properties disturbed.

Pam mentioned the need for volunteers to do the water test for the lake in May or June.

Call the Platte County non-emergency number for non-wristband fishing or boating issues.

The issue of rental homes was raised regarding short term rental for wristbands. Pam did not believe the rentals allow the renters lake access.

Zebra mussels were mentioned as they are a concern for those boats or watercraft from renters or visitors brought into our lake. If you have watercraft boats, kayaks, outboards or fishing poles that are taken out on other lakes, we ask that residents keep those dry docked or out of our lake for at least 2 weeks to prevent any eggs from potentially reaching our lake.

The subject of whether rental owners make renters aware of the rules of our lake regarding wristbands and the need for all watercraft to be registered with the HOA which will be discussed at the next HOA working meeting on April 21, 2025.

Frank asked City council members Lisa and Jess if the city would object if the HOA put up signs near the entrances to Houston lake signs that said all watercraft used on the lake must be registered with the city and VGA home association. Lisa and Jess said that it could be brought up at their next city council meeting.

Another concern by attendees was: Fences having been put up without surveys being done was brought up. One by the walking path and the question was, were any of the previous fence permits that the city allowed were reviewed when these were being put in and why those locations were approved and allowed to be bigger. Pam mentioned that it was measured off the plot maps. 50 feet. Frank measured twice before they put up the fence and he put in a stake where the fence should have been and after he did that, someone moved the stake about 5 ft. so he went back and re measured, then moved the stake back to where it should be. After the fence was put in, he went back and measured it and it is properly located with the plot map.

Another fence on HOA property has a fence that is moveable and the concerns of the owners dogs being able run out to the lake and now other owners could move their fence closer to the lake. Pam had not heard of this and will investigate it further and discuss it at our next working meeting and decide what course of action to take.

Mary- has the new wristbands and residents can obtain them from her. It will also be noted in the Houston Laker.

Meeting was adjourned @ 7:35 pm

Online Watercraft Registration Form

Boaters: ALL watercraft including kayaks must be registered with the Venetian Gardens Homes Association. To do so, please visit vgha.community Select the online registration form below and enter your information. It will automatically generate an email to the VGHA Board. You will then be contacted to arrange an inspection of your boat(s). Once it passes an inspection, you will be assigned a number which is to be permanently affixed to the stern of the boat.

Please wear your 2025 wristband while enjoying the lake.

Maximum Horsepower permissible on the lake will be 7 ½ HP. It is recommended that 3 ½ or 5 HP be used. The maximum speed permissible on the lake by outboards will be FIVE (5) miles per HOUR. NO WAKE.



PLEASE NOTE: Houston Lake is dedicated to preventing the spread of Zebra Mussels. The Boat ramp is closed.

No watercraft will be allowed in the lake without being inspected. This process may take 10 days so please plan accordingly. If you want to launch your watercraft (boats, kayaks, canoes, pontoons, etc.) into our lake you must contact Pam Freese at venetian.gardens.homes.assoc@gmail.com even if you have lake front property to launch your watercraft from, you must have it inspected and registered. Now if the watercraft has not left Houston Lake, it does not need to be inspected but it does have to be registered. Watercraft safety equipment (life vests) and adhere to lake rules. This applies to NEW boaters. However, safety equipment applies to ALL boaters.

Completed forms can be put in the HOA mail box at City Hall.

Today, scientists know that zebra mussels can cause increases in toxic blue-green algae, including Microsystems, which produces a poison that causes liver damage when ingested by humans and wildlife. Decaying algae can make waters uninhabitable by causing low levels of dissolved oxygen that result in fish kills.

Zebra mussels have been found in Missouri in Smithville Lake, Lake Taneycomo, Bull Shoals Lake, Lake of the Ozarks, the Missouri River and the Mississippi River. They also occur in Lake Lotawana in the Kansas City area, the lower Meramec River. Invasive zebra mussels now widespread at Truman Lake.

**VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION
APPLICATION FOR WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION**

OWNERS NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

LOT NUMBER _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

BOAT TYPE _____

MAKE _____

MODEL NUMBER _____

HORSEPOWER _____

Sign and Date _____

Instructions:

Complete application then submit it to the Board of Directors. Application can be emailed to venetian.gardens.homes.assoc@gmail.com or put in the HOA mail box at City Hall, 5417 N. Adrian, Houston Lake, Mo. 64151.



City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, the 19th day of March, 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 March 12, 2025, was postponed, by Notice, to March 19, 2025 - additional preparation time was needed to accomplish all items needing to be discussed.

The regular meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Ashley Fuglestad on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 6:37 PM.

On roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Pro Tem / Alderman Ashley Fuglestad (Acting Mayor), Alderman Jesse Beshears, and Alderman Teena Walker-Robin. Alderman Sarah Loring was not present when roll call was taken. Quorum was established.

REVIEW OF AGENDA FOR 03/19/2025

The agenda was included in the notice for the meeting. There were no additions/corrections.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Walker-Robin moved to approve the 02/26/2025 City Council Meeting minutes as presented. Beshears 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by the three Aldermen present.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Fire Department Report - Keith Payne, Assistant Fire Chief, reported a tree falling down on Wagon Trail that broke the power line which started a small fire. They stayed for about 2 ½ hours until the utility company arrived to take care of the power line.

Sheriff's Report - Captain Woodrow Painter's report was read in his absence. It indicated three calls for service in February for a total of nearly 24.5 hours. 1 animal bite/attack, 1 open door/window, and 1 traffic stop.

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (VGHA) REPORT

Mary Head's report was read in her absence. The semi-annual VGHA meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21. The lake clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 beginning at 9:00 AM at City Hall and, hopefully, done by noon. Mary Head is handling the lake bracelets for Treasurer, Susan Hodges. Someone will be adding goose eggs by dipping them in vegetable oil and placing them back in the nest. If you don't want eggs added in nests near you, contact the president, secretary, or Mary Head of the VGHA board. Mary suggested items be placed in the next Laker regarding permits, the upcoming election, abolishment of the ward system, and the fire suppression fund. Fuglestad will review these. The deadline to submit news of any kind for the April edition of the Houston Laker is March 21, 2025.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Brief discussion about rules and signage regarding boats in Houston Lake and who can use the lake. Best suggestion to VGHA was to put rules on different color paper and, perhaps, send separately from the Houston Laker.

PERMITS

Building - for 5474 NW Venetian Dr. Beshears moved to approve. Walker-Robin 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by the three Aldermen present.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports dated 02/28/25 were accepted as presented. During the financial report, the topic of the next City Council meeting was raised and confirmed the meeting would be moved from April 9 to April 16 in order to swear in those who will be elected on April 8. Discussion regarding general fund CD due to mature in early April. Beshears moved to pause the General Fund CD, due to renew on April 12, from reinvesting. Walker-Robin 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by the three Aldermen present.

Discussion regarding amending the 2024-2025 budget. Walker-Robin moved to increase income by \$16,000 - Playground Grant and to increase expenses by \$7,300 - Utilities Rectification, \$1,000 - Codification of Records, and \$7,700 - Road Fund. Beshears 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by the three Aldermen present. The amended budget should be published in the Houston Laker.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recreational Fire Ordinance - Fuglestad explained the goal is to move away from yearly burn permits to a Recreational Fire Ordinance that covers everyone and is more easily enforced. The ordinance was posted ahead of the meeting. The title of the ordinance was read, twice, by Fuglestad. Beshears moved to approve An Ordinance Repealing Section 230.025 Open Burning Restrictions and Creating Section 800, Recreational Fire Ordinance. Walker-Robin 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by the three Aldermen present.

Storm Water Grant - Beshears mentioned he and his committee of Loring, Shepard, and Treasurer, Honeycutt, have the Storm Water Grant ready to be submitted by the March 21, 2025 deadline. The Council signed the cover letter. Shepard will hand deliver the grant proposal on March 20.

NEW BUSINESS - none

REPORT FROM CITY CLERK

Shepard heard from a resident wondering about codes relating to the noise level in Houston Lake. Fuglestad indicated the police can be called between the hours of 10:00 PM and until 7:00 AM, she believes. Shepard reported a new polling place for the upcoming election. She mentioned she had received unsigned annual contracts, for past years, from our copier maintenance company. It was suggested to review these with the city's attorney. She offered a Covid fund report - we have obligated the over \$50,000 Covid funds we received, and we have expended all the Covid funds we received. Shepard thanked the Council for their support during her first year as City Clerk and she, especially, thanked Walker-Robin for serving, both as Alderman and City Clerk for many, many months by offering her a small gift.

Fuglestad also thanked Walker-Robin for her service.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Beshears wished Shepard a Happy Birthday.

Walker-Robin offered an update about the Playground. She applied this year to expand the playground by adding four swings and toddler equipment. Brief discussion around the type of swings desired. Belt swings were suggested. Walker-Robin reminded Fuglestad she would need to follow up to obtain the grant funds once the playground work is completed. Completion is expected by April 14, 2025. Walker-Robin was commended for her hard work on the playground project.

(Alderman Sarah Loring arrived at the meeting.)

Fuglestad asked what she could ask a tree company to do for our community and can the service be paid from the Fire Suppression fund. She intends to ask about a second brush pickup for this spring.

Loring shared that Sarah Schofield helped with the recent tree issue, especially checking on neighbors in the surrounding area. She appreciated everyone's work on the bridge grant proposal.

NEXT MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT

The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Fuglestad adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

[Note: the minutes were reviewed at the April 16, 2025 City Council meeting. However, of the newly elected council members present, only two were in attendance at the March 19, 2025 meeting. Since a quorum of members, present at the March 19, 2025 meeting, was not available to approve the minutes, the minutes are not approved.]

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Best wishes to you,
Marlene