

HOUSTON LAKER

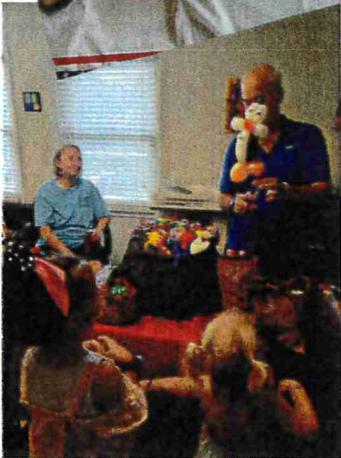
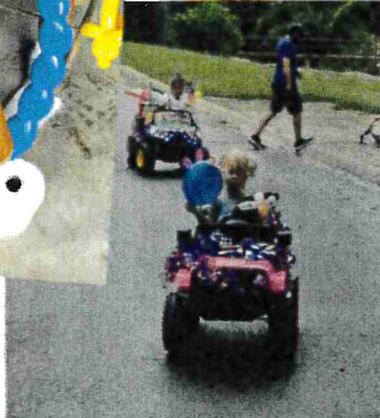
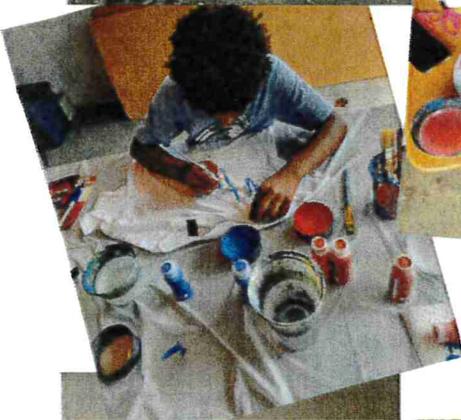
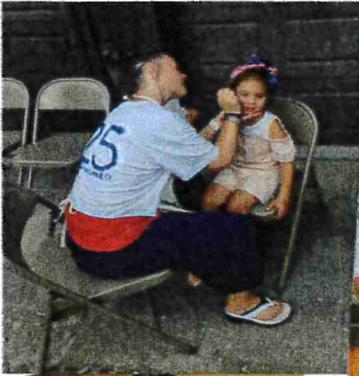
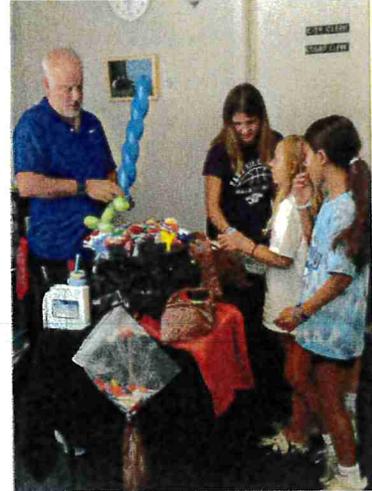
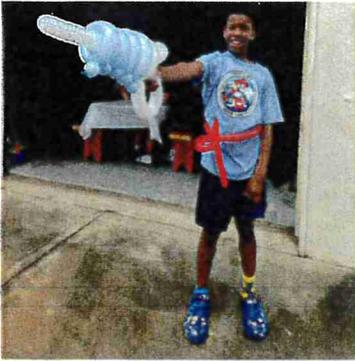
Since March 1957 - Edition 68

August 2025 issue



*4th of July Picnic Celebration
Houston Lake*

4th of July picnic celebration page 2





GARDEN UPDATE:

Hopefully by the time you read this the second round of green beans will have been planted. We cleared out the first section and its ready for planting. The next harvest should be around the first weeks in September.

The tomato plants have been pruned and are looking really great with lots of blooms and baby tomatoes.

Jamie Hock planted some Ground Cherries and they are ready for picking. They look like small tomatillos'..... Just remove the outer layer and enjoy.

Sorry to say that the squash and zucchini plants did not make it. Because of all the rain followed by the intense heat they both got vine borers and powdery mildew. We'll keep trying however!

The cucumbers however look fantastic. Kathryn Kreider and Jamie Hock planted two different kinds. Thank you both!!

Please check out the grape vine when you're there. It's loaded with grapes and I noticed that some were turning purple. We may have some grape jelly soon.

Thanks to Heidi VanPelt, Kathryn Krieder, Ethan Dean, Jennifer Heese, Jamie Hock and Sharon DeLaFuente for all your help and support.

Marsha Duncan

If you have any questions or ideas please contact me at mduncannkc@aol.com or 816.419.5051

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.

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 now 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.

2025 Holidays:

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

Houston Lake Cookbook

1st and 2nd Edition of the Houston Lake Cookbooks is available for \$3.00 each. **Houston Lake History Book** = 76 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 August Events

Trash and Recycling pick up is every Wednesday

9th – Art Circle, delivery date, 2:00pm to 4:00pm - City Hall

13th - City of Houston Lake City Meeting at 6:30pm, City Hall

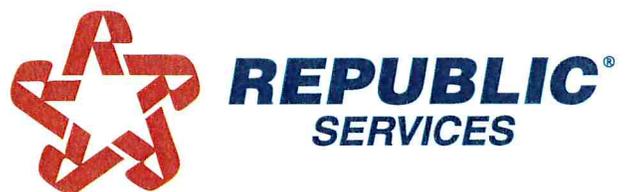
16th – Art Circle Exhibit 1:00pm to 4:00pm. - City Hall

18th – Venetian Gardens Homes Association meeting 6:30pm. - City Hall. Members can pick up their 2025 wristband at city hall before the meeting. The wristbands are FREE if your dues are paid. To get your 2025 Wristbands sooner call Homes Association Treasurer, Don Miller at 918-663-4109 or email him at drmiller5@icloud.com . Guests of Residents must have that Resident 2025 wristband with them when they are on or around the lake and on Homes Association property.

Proper Cart Placement Is the Key to Automated Service



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



Sustainability in Action



Venetian Gardens Homes Association Open Meeting June 16, 2025

Present were: Pam Freese, Don Miller, Monica Beshears and Mary Head. The meeting began at 6:35pm

May minutes were approved.

HOA Treasurer, Don Miller went over the financial reports:

We have \$111,639.36 in cash. \$98,405.61 is invested in a Money Market. We still have \$39,899.72 in unpaid dues. We are making progress in payments being made. A discussion regarding those who are in arrears do have a lien against their homes. Those who are not current this year have until August to make payments. Pam explained that we try to give homeowners a 6 month grace period to pay that balance. We do file a lien if it is not paid by then. Discussions were made by residents who attended regarding suggestions or inquiries on how to resolve those.

Auto pay bills: for the Water at the beach with Missouri American Water in the amount of \$40.00 a month and the Electric at the beach which runs about \$150.00 a month. A proposal was made by Don to have those bills moved to auto pay as this would make things easier and more efficient for payment using QuickBooks. A vote was made and the proposal was approved.

HOA President Pam Freese:

We are still waiting on an invoice for the peninsula clearing, edge clearing and the mowing from Sean Edwards.

A letter was sent to the mayor regarding a resident who is interested in picking up the mowing position for pay. Until we know what the city is doing, Sean has agreed to mow the HOA properties that includes the back of the dam on whatever schedule we want for \$300.00 a mow. No weed trimming was included as it would increase the price.

No objections were made to have Sean continue with the mowing with no weeding. A discussion was made regarding the use of the city's mower and whether or not it is usable. We will check with Frank regarding insurance for the mowing.

4th of July contributions with the City and the Art Circle: the board agreed to contribute Hamburger and Hot Dog buns, beverages, and condiments. Don found a \$250.00 budget for picnics and some of that would be used for those food and beverage donations.

Dock Permit approval for 5315 NW Edgewood Circle: The HOA will wait on the approval as more information regarding the location (map), material, and dimensions are not clear.

Watercraft registration: Pam is working with Teena and Wendy to fix the registration problem. Wendy has volunteered to continue doing the watercraft registration.

Tree plans: We will be holding off on the trees that are slotted to be removed due to the increase in our mowing fees. They will be put on next year's budget.

Oversight committee by Lisa Shepard.

The oversight committee for the HOA has been working on the Rules and Regulations to get them organized by grouping them together. Pam mentioned throwing back to the committee the watercraft inspection (2nd bullet under Use of Houston Lake) stating that it be dry docked for 2 weeks prior to use on our lake which includes not only watercrafts but fishing poles, floats, anything that you would bring into our lake.

Pam suggested that we as a board will wait on the approval for the Venetian Gardens Homes Association Official Regulations update until we have more information.

Public concerns:

Dock Location: An objection to the placement of the new dock was made by Bill Whitton. Pam stated that if you walk down to the end of the peninsula there are 2 flags and that is where the stairs are going to go. The dock itself is going to sit on the left side of the peninsula that faces Don Makey's backyard. Sean Edwards and Steve Goeden have a plan to do a ramp with double rails and kayak storage on the side. It will not be a motor boat launch area. Just a place to store or launch your kayak.

Concrete Flume: Katherine discussed the broken flume. Pam will look into and investigate it further.

Next HOA Meeting is on July 21, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:22 p.m.



VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES
ASSOCIATION
BOARD APPLICATION

NAME _____ DATE OF FILING _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

You must be a member in good standing of the Venetian Gardens Homes Association. This means that you must be current on dues payment.

We have two vacancies on the Homes Association Board to fill at the Annual October Meeting. Two Elected Board Members will serve a two-year term.

Anyone interested in becoming a Board Member, please complete the application on this page and mail it to "Venetian Gardens Homes Association, 5417 N. Adrian, Houston Lake, Missouri 64151" or drop it off at city hall in the HOA mail box, located on the front porch next to the front door by September 30, 2025. Thank you



AUDITORS NEEDED

Three volunteers are needed to “audit the books” (review the check book and other financial records) for the Venetian Garden Homes Association.

As required by the bylaws, an audit of the books must be completed prior to the Annual Meeting which will be held in October.

It is not an overwhelming task, probably an hour or two.

The Treasurer, Don Miller, will meet with the volunteers to get this job done.

So, would you like to help the Homes Association? And, if you have done an audit before, you can offer your services again!

Call Don Miller at 918-633-4109 or email at drmiller5@icloud.com and offer your services. It would be greatly appreciated.

Water Test at the Beach

The E. Coli (water) Test is **7** it was taken July 15, 2025 at the beach. This is considered Normal, anything under 200 is good. Children under 14 years of age require Adult supervision when using the beach area. State Law

The swim beach is safe for swimming.

Venetian Gardens Homes Association

Anytime after a heavy rain wait a week to go swimming.

Houston Lake City Officials

City Hall – (816) 741-0644

Mayor – Sarah Schofied
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
sloring@houstonlake.gov

Jesse Beshears
jbeshears@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 – Don Miller
(918) 633-4109
drmiller5@icloud.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**

Venetian Gardens Homes Association

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 2022 Wristband.

ABSOLUTELY NO FISHING IN THE BEACH AREA.

To get your 2025 Wristbands call Homes Association Board Member Mary Head @ 816-741-5639.

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.

ATTENTION Your Lake Dues must be paid to use the lake facilities for swimming, fishing, boating or other recreational purposes even if you have lake front property. Non-paying members may not picnic on Homes Association property (for example, the beach, Mayor's park or the peninsula) you must have your 2025 Lake wristband with you when using the lake. This includes using the HOA boat dock at the Boat ramp.

NO FISHING if you have not paid your HOA dues.

Please use your fishing gear safely! Cutting your line loose and leaving long lengths of it in the water can harm our wildlife and our pets, especially if there is still a hook attached.

Homes Association Rules and Regulations

1. Lake tags will be issued to lot owners who have paid their HOA dues in full. Lot owners will be responsible for the wristbands issued to their property.
2. Lake Wristband must be worn and visible for everyone on Venetian Gardens HOA property at all times.
3. Private property. No trespassing. Residents, lot owners and guests only. Violators will be prosecuted.
4. Property owners are responsible for the conduct and actions of their guest at all times.
5. No DIVING or FISHING from the Swimming Docks.
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 ANYWHERE beyond the gate at the swim beach.
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 use any watercraft on Houston Lake, it must be registered with the HOA and tagged (even if it has been in the water for years). If you wish to launch any NEW watercraft on the lake, it MUST be inspected and approved by the HOA. Please contact Pam Freese at 816-726-4455 or email her at venetian.gardens.homes.assoc@gmail.com. This process will take at least 10 days, so plan accordingly. You must also have 2025 lake wristband, watercraft safety equipment (life vest) and adhere to lake rules. This applies to NEW boaters. However, safety equipment applies to ALL boaters.

Happy 95th Birthday To Gene Charles Aug. 19th,

From everyone on Houston Lake

I was among the advance party who boarded the *U.S. Army Gen Wm. O. Darby* transport a day early and did all the work details. On the first day on the ship I looked out a port hole and the floating ship made the pier look as if it was going up and down 2' or 3'.

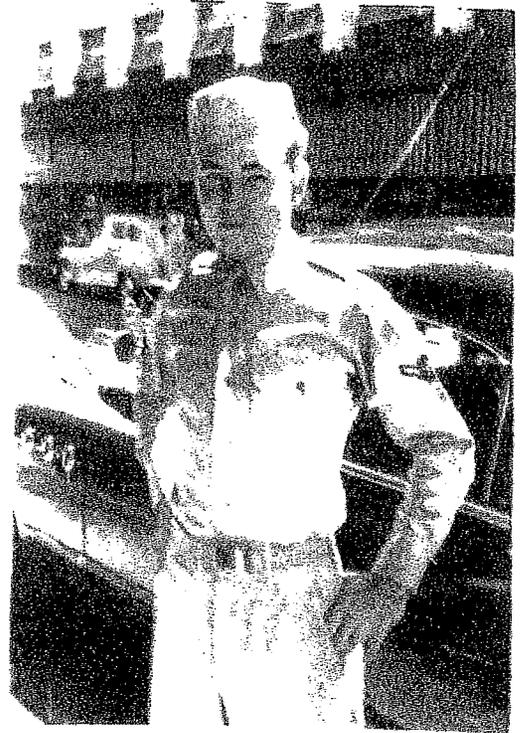
Three of us washed the dinner trays three times a day in a so called clipper that scalded the trays. That must have been like working in a sauna. After 19 days of that I'd lost all the weight gained at camp Stoneman and then some-it took a long time to get back to my usual weight. Many of the guys got sea sick-I never did-of course, those of us who worked had other things to think about than what the ship was doing. After a day or two, I got my "sea legs"-that is, I became accustomed to the ship's movement. That was at 75 years ago but, here's how I recall the ship's movement. Besides the forward motion, the ship would buoy up and roll a bit, then sink back down and sort of shudder before buoying up gain. We did that for more than 7,000 miles. Cruise boats have stabilizers to stop most of that movement. Sometimes while going up a flight of stairs, I'd stand still as the ship rose then, I'd scamper up the stairs with ease as it sank out from under me - 3 or 4 steps at a time.

We slept on a canvas laced inside a tubular frame arranged in a 4 tier high configurations. We used no bed clothing. On a scale of 1-10, sleeping was a 10. The *Darby* rocked me to sleep. That was some of my best sleep ever!

We set sail 30th September 1950 from "Frisco" and after 6 days, stopped at Honolulu-with 4 hours of liberty. A guy on the street took my photo and sent it to my folks. I walked around town. Then we sailed to Kwajalein atoll and to Eniwetok atoll, both in the Marshall Islands, then on to Guam with liberty, but it was raining. We watched two sailors fighting out in the rain-some entertainment -no?

At Manila, I managed to carry the military equipment-a back pack, carbine, steel helmet & liner, gas mask, ammo belt/canteen plus my 75# or so duffle bag. The pier was made of logs that were badly splintered. A lot of guys were dragging their bags and I saw clothing that must have fallen out of torn bags.

By "Gene" Charles



on liberty in Honolulu Oct 6, 1950

STUFFED PIZZA ROLLS

One tube (13.80 oz) refrigerated pizza crust

¼ cup prepared ranch salad dressing

6 oz pepperoni, finely chopped

1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese

¼ cup shredded Romano cheese

¼ cup thinly sliced green onions

¼ cup chopped green pepper

4 cooked bacon strips, chopped

2 tsp. Italian seasoning

1 tsp garlic powder

Optional: Marinara sauce or Alfredo sauce

Preheat oven to 350. Grease 12 muffin cups and set aside.

On a lightly floured surface unroll pizza crust and spread

Ranch dressing to within ½ inch of edge. Sprinkle with

Pepperoni, green onions, green pepper, bacon and seasonings

Roll up jelly roll style, pinch edge to seal. Cut crosswise into 12

Slices and place one slice in each prepared muffin cup.

Bake 20-25 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve warm with sauces if desired.



City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, the 18th day of June, 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 June 11, 2024, was postponed, by Notice, to June 18, 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 Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 6:31 PM.

On roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Sarah Schofield, Alderman Marsha Duncan, Alderman Jesse Beshears, and Alderman Sarah Loring. Alderman Ashley Fuglestad was absent. A quorum was established. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Schofield.

The resignation of Alderman Ashley Fuglestad was presented and accepted by the Council.

Election of "Acting President of the Board of Aldermen" aka Mayor Pro Tem - Beshears moved to accept Sarah Loring to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the next year. Duncan 2nd. Beshears and Duncan approved. Loring abstained. The vote in favor of Loring resulted in approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Loring moved to approve the 05/14/2025 City Council Meeting minutes, the 05/20/25 Joint City Council/VGHA Meeting minutes, and the 05/28/25 City Council Budget Meeting minutes as presented. Duncan 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Riverside Fire Department Report - Keith Payne, Assistant Fire Chief, reported one call in the last 30 days regarding a downed power line which has been repaired.

Platte Co Sheriff's Report - Deputy Jacob Laverentz reported six calls for service in May for a total of 24.93 hours: 1 animal, 1 check for welfare, 1 noise disturbance, 1 suspicious person/vehicle, 1 traffic, and 1 trespass. The deputy was asked about the noise disturbance on NW Venetian, especially to see if more police attention could be brought to that area. The deputy was asked about the status of setting up a machine in Houston Lake to measure traffic speed. He will check into this. MODot enforces the noise ordinance on I-29.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Katherine Stockbauer asked if there is a way to prevent gravel from driveways to spill onto the roads. Weezy Shaw has been working on replacing the Houston Lake sign for the intersection

of 56th Street and Adrian - it is just about ready to be reinstalled. He was thanked for this work. Sharron delaFuente thanked the Mayor for filling the pot holes. She reported the drain under Jeffrey Lane is clogged and causing flooding. Katherine Stockbauer has communicated with MODot regarding the water issues on Houston Lake Drive and undermining the spillway. She will follow up with them on June 23.

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (VGHA) REPORT

Mary Head reported the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 21. The deadline to submit news of any kind for the July edition of the Houston Laker is June 21, 2025. Testing reports regarding the lake water are posted at City Hall and at the Swim Beach.

PERMITS

Building - 3610 NW Edgewater Trl - deck. Loring moved to approve. Beshears 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

Building - 5315 NW Edgewood Cir - dock. Council had questions about the permit and attempted to contact the homeowner during the meeting. Permit tabled.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports dated 05/31/25 were accepted with a correction to the Income spreadsheet - the General Fund Reserve transfer, anticipated to be utilized in 2024-2025, has not yet occurred (the amount needs to be moved over one column). Grinder Pump invoice in the amount of \$4,750 was presented which is over the current amount available to be utilized within the 2024-2025 budget from the Grinder Pump Fund. (Note: after this payment, \$6,623.92 will be left in the Grinder Pump Fund.) Loring moved the \$4,750 should be paid. Beshears 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. Discussion regarding how to pay any additional invoices regarding Grinder Pumps through the end of 2024-2025 and through December 2025. Kay Honeycutt, Bookkeeper, would like to keep a balance in the Grinder Pump fund to pay for potential small repairs. In addition, it is easier for her to keep track of what is borrowed from the General Fund Reserve if she pays larger Grinder Pump invoices in total from the General Fund Reserve. Beshears moved to pay any Grinder Pump invoices above \$1,000 from the General Fund Reserve for the remainder of 2025. Duncan 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. Garage Door Replacement - Beshears moved to spend up to \$6,000 to repair/replace the three garage doors (including new openers) on the City Hall Garage through the 2024-2025 budget. Duncan 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. New Contract with Republic Trash Services beginning July 1, 2025 through December 2027 - Beginning July 1, 2025, both trash and recycle will be picked up weekly. If a resident needs to place at the curb more than one trash bin and/or recycle bin weekly, each can is an additional \$10 per month per can and is paid directly to Republic. Proposed Budget for 2025-2026 - Shepard and Honeycutt presented a Financial Considerations Report which included a \$10,903 Sewer CD which was recently cashed and funds placed into the General Fund. Beshears moved to reinvest the \$10,903 Sewer funding back into a short-term CD. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. Further discussion resulted in the need for an additional Budget working meeting which was scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall. A date for approving the 2025-2026 budget was not set.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

Honeycutt - no report. Shepard reported attending a regional city clerk's meeting. The educational portion of the meeting was a presentation by a Missouri archivist. Missouri provides an archivist free of charge to cities for consultation and evaluation of the city's documents retention/destruction plan. She will arrange to meet with this person as soon as possible and others are welcome to join that meeting.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Duncan - no report. Loring thanked Ashley Fuglestad for her service on the council (others mentioned their thanks as well). She thanked the Mayor for filling pot holes and for lots of tasks on which she has been working. She thanked Todd Lagessie for the temporary fix on the street sign on Venetian Circle. She thanked the VGHA for recent lake trimming, especially around the dam. She reminded everyone to alert the Platte County Sheriff's Department when they see folk around our city who are non-residents. She will work with Honeycutt regarding checks she has received but she was unable to deposit. She reminded the Council, regarding the new budget, that mowing is an important element. She proposes the City look into other avenues for revenue such as a sales tax, a use tax, and a short-term rental tax. Beshears has found mail in Houston Lake that was from 15 minutes away and was obviously stolen. He asks residents to be vigilant regarding letting the Platte Co Sheriff's office know about strangers in the city. He has worked with Wikipedia's listing of Houston Lake to include that it is a private lake. He has applied for a grant through both T-Mobil and Argosy Casino, soliciting funding for our bridge. He reported the Storm Water Grant rejection letter included the suggestion that we apply for funding through Platte County Parks and Recreation. If anyone knows of any other grants, please let him know. Beshears and Don Miller offered to get City Hall ready for the "4th on the 5th" event. He thanked Ashley Fuglestad for her time on the Council and the Mayor for recent tasks on which she has been working.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Schofield thanked Beshears for his work on grants. She asks residents to share with her their "wish lists" for items needed in the community. She reports Houston Lake remains one of the safest cities in Platte County. She reported lots of little tasks are currently being addressed. She is especially working on signs around the City. The water line in the garage to the garden is set to be fixed this week. The "4th and the 5th" Event will be held on Saturday, July 5, 2025 at City Hall.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

A working budget meeting will be Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall. The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 8:37 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 07/09/2025



City Council Budget Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, the 24th day of June, 2025

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

The budget meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Sarah Schofield on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:31 PM.

On roll call, the following members were present: Mayor Sarah Schofield, Alderman Marsha Duncan, and Alderman Jesse Beshears. Alderman Sarah Loring was absent. A quorum was established. Kay Honeycutt, Bookkeeper, and Lisa Shepard, City Clerk, were also in attendance.

The entire meeting regarded the discussion of the 2025-2026 budget. We will vote on the budget at the July 9, 2025 City Council meeting.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 07/09/2025

State of the City of Houston Lake - from Sarah Schofield, Mayor

The 2025-2026 City Council initiated its term with a City Satisfaction Survey to gauge the sentiments of Houston Lake residents. Here are the findings:

Responses were rated on a scale from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent):

- **Overall efforts to prevent crime:** The most common rating was 4, with an average response of 3.3.
- **Cleanliness of streets and public areas:** The predominant rating was 4, yielding an average of 3.9.
- **Maintenance of major city streets:** The most frequently given rating was 5, resulting in an average of 3.6.
- **Quality of stormwater runoff and management:** The most common rating was 4, but this received a low average of 2.5.
- **Community events and resident involvement:** The most common rating was 5, with an average of 3.9.
- **Enforcement of codes and ordinances:** The most prevalent rating was 1, leading to an average of 2.2.

Responses were rated on a scale from 1 (very dissatisfied) to 5 (very satisfied):

- **Quality of emergency management services (fire and ambulance):** The most common rating was 5, with an average of 4.2.
- **Maintenance of city buildings:** The most common rating was 5, resulting in an average of 3.9.
- **Trash and recycling services:** The predominant rating was 5, yielding an average of 4.1.
- **Maintenance of city parks and park equipment:** The most common rating was 5, with an average of 3.6.
- **Customer service from city employees (council, maintenance, city clerk, etc.):** The most common rating was 5, with an average of 4.1.

Responses were rated on a scale from 1 (not visible) to 5 (highly visible):

- **Visibility of the Platte County Sheriff's presence in the city:** The most common rating was 3, with an average of 3.3.

Responses were rated on a scale from 1 (ineffective) to 5 (very effective):

- **Effectiveness of communications between the city and residents:** The most common rating was 5, with an average of 3.6.

The Council expresses gratitude to all who participated in the survey. Continued community involvement and dialogue are essential to ensuring that Houston Lake remains the place we all want to live.

To date, the Council has successfully completed and approved the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. In this new budget council included a new contract with Republic Services that is not only less expensive

but includes weekly recycling pick-up. Significant improvements have been made, including the replacement of the garage doors at City Hall and the repair of the water line in the garage using PEX piping and a heat line to prevent future freezing and breakage. The bathrooms in the basement of City Hall have also been repaired and finished, including the replacement of drywall removed during mold mitigation efforts.

The Council met with the Platte County Sheriff's Office to conduct a safety assessment of the city. We have begun repurposing street signs to new locations and adding additional signage as suggested. The expansion of the city playground was completed, funded by a grant awarded through the efforts of the previous Council. A spring brush clean-up was carried out alongside the removal of hazardous trees on city property. Thanks to Katherine Stockbauer, the water flow on Houston Drive has been redirected, ensuring the roadway remains clear and preventing pollutants from I-29 from entering the lake. Additionally, we appreciate Weezy Shaw for the installation of the city sign at the intersection of Adrian and 56th Street. Potholes have been filled, and asphalt patches have been applied at Edgewood and Edgewater.

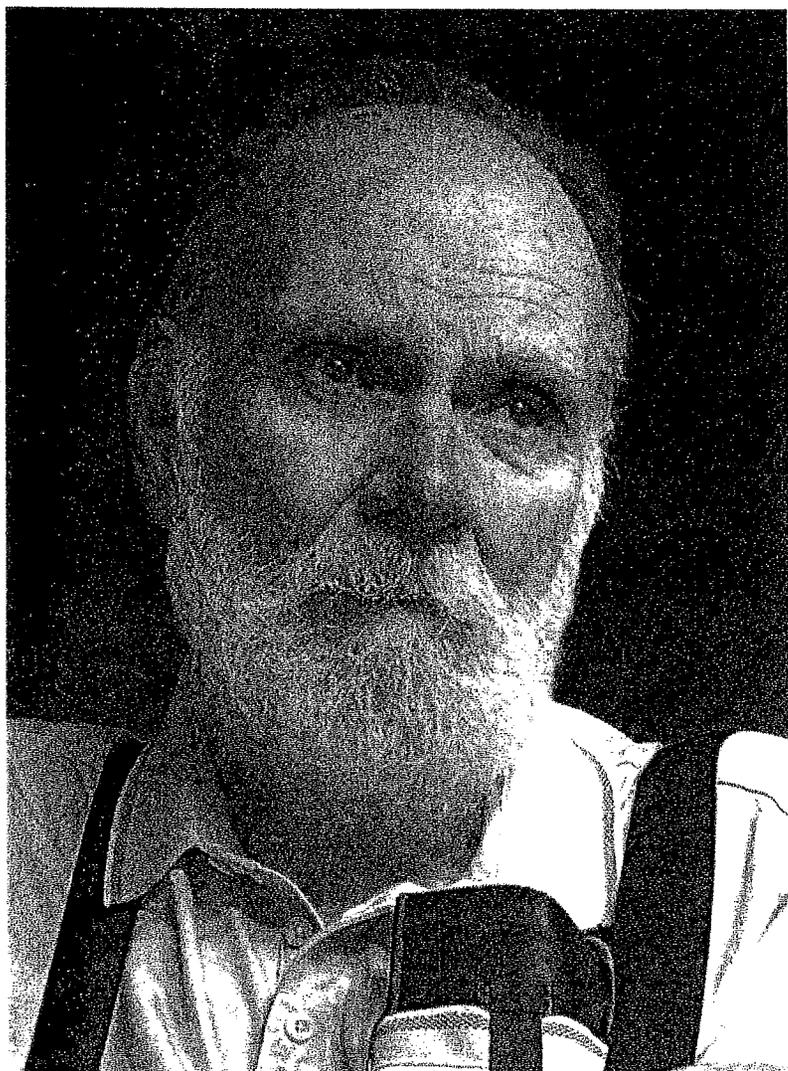
The City Council collaborated with the Venetian Gardens Homes Association to plan community events and improvement initiatives. Residents enjoyed a community potluck event, the 4th on the 5th of July, featuring a bike parade, t-shirt painting, a cookout, and a playground dedication. These events play a vital role in fostering community spirit and exemplify the collaborative efforts of the Arts Circle, VGHA, and the Council to unite residents.

The Sheriff's Office assures us that Houston Lake remains one of the safest cities in Platte County. We are utilizing patrol information from the Sheriff's Office to strengthen our working relationship and enhance safety in Houston Lake.

Preventative maintenance of our roads will allow us to focus on culverts and ditches to manage stormwater flow, thereby protecting our roads from damage and minimizing potential flooding for residents.

Houston Lake is a vibrant community that offers an exceptional quality of life. The City and VGHA look forward to collaborating with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Conservation on future initiatives, including invasive plant species removal, native plant replacement, and water quality improvement for the lake.

Community involvement is essential, and we encourage everyone to engage in city efforts—whether by attending meetings, assisting with projects, considering a position as an alderman, or simply sharing thoughts and ideas. You are always welcome to initiate a conversation by contacting mayor@houstonlake.gov.



Terry Howard Johnson
7/19/1943 - 7/22/2025

Terry was born in Kansas City, MO to Howard and Loretta Johnson. He was the middle child between his sisters Ardythe James and Rilla Benton. He grew up the son of a traveling salesman who was also a song leader in the Church of Christ. Music and church were an incredibly important part of his life.

He met Sharon Terry through the church and they married in September 1963. In 1969 they welcomed their first child David Terry, followed by Pamela Kay in 1970 and Jennifer Anne in 1976. Terry worked hard and long hours as a tv and appliance repairman.

His time off was spent with family. He instilled a love of travel and music in his children. He was entertained with their antics and orneriness.

He and Sharon divorced in 1986 and he married Mary Frye in 1987. They had a loving relationship until her death in 2008. They worked at blending all the families together and he gained two bonus sons Larry and Jon. Terry furthered his education and switched careers to data center management for JC Penney's followed by AT&T. Learning was a struggle for him, making such a major shift in careers a hard task. He met the task with determination to succeed.

When Larry passed away shortly before Mary, he spoke at his celebration of life with a broken heart and tears streaming down his face. He chose to move to the community of Houston Lake, to be near his daughter Pam and her family. He integrated into the community quickly and even played Santa for their Christmas events for years.

After retirement he worked at the phone prayer lines at Unity Village. It gave him a sense of peace listening to people and praying with them. He also was part of a small group that sang Christian music at nursing homes and prisons.

He met Sharon Jones and they became partners. He learned to lead a quieter, mischievous life in his golden years. They traveled from coast to coast enjoying each other's company and the beauty of the states.

Terry passed away after a short illness surrounded by his sister, children and grandchildren. He led a beautiful life full of love, laughter, orneriness, faith and family.

Celebration of Life:
Saturday July 26, 2025
12:00 Service begins at 12:30 pm
Unity Village - Atrium Chapel
200 Unity Circle North
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

City Council Search for Alderman to Fill Two Seats

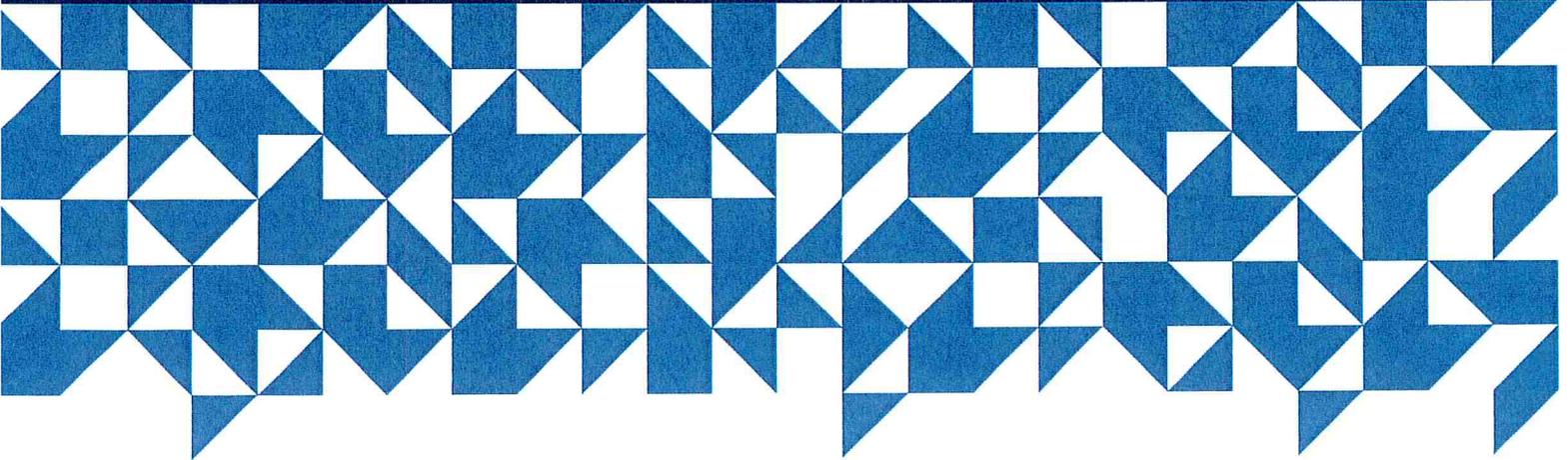
The Board of Aldermen plays a crucial role in shaping the policies and direction of Houston Lake. This includes overseeing municipal services, managing the city budget, and making decisions that directly impact the lives of our residents. We are looking for individuals who are committed to public service, possess strong problem-solving abilities, and are eager to collaborate for the betterment of our community.

Chapter 110 Article 1 Section 110.010 of the city code states that a person qualifies to be an Alderman if he/she are at least twenty-one (21) years of age, a citizen of the United States, and an inhabitant and resident of the City for one (1) year next preceding his/her election, and a resident, at the time he/she files and during the time he/she serves. Chapter 115 Article 1 Section 115.010 states that an Alderman shall hold office for the term of two (2) years, except as otherwise provided in this Section, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The current open position began in April of 2025 and would continue until April 2027.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity and the responsibilities involved, please email mayor@houstonlake.gov to schedule a time to talk and answer any questions you might have.

Sarah Schofield
Mayor of the City of Houston Lake

Arts Circle of Houston Lake



Art Delivery Date: August 9, 2 - 4pm

Exhibit: August 16, 1 - 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.

Physical art remains on display after the opening. Selected pieces displayed Aug - Feb, new pieces displayed March - July.

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

Artist:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Art Work

Theme and title:

Medium (watercolor, yarn, etc):

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

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

Artist:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Art Work

Theme and title:

Medium (watercolor, yarn, etc):

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



Introduction to the 2025-2026 Budget City of Houston Lake

The 2025-2026 budget for the City of Houston Lake has been developed with a focus on organized and strategic financial planning to ensure fiscal responsibility and community growth. Key changes and considerations have been incorporated to enhance clarity and effectiveness in meeting our obligations.

Income Sources for the City of Houston Lake

- **Primary Revenue Stream: Tax Collections**

- The City of Houston Lake is predominantly funded by tax collections.
- The Platte County Collector's office issues annual tax invoices.
- Portions of these collections are remitted to the city, encompassing:
 - Real estate taxes
 - Personal property taxes
 - Houston Lake city taxes
 - Sewer and trash fees
 - Grinder pump fees (where applicable)
- Timely payment of taxes by residents is crucial, as late payments can negatively impact the city's resources for subsequent fiscal years.

- **Secondary Revenue Stream: Utility Franchise Taxes**

- The city also receives a small percentage from utility franchise taxes.
- These are collected from various utility providers serving Houston Lake residents, including:
 - Spire
 - Evergy
 - Missouri American Water
 - Various cellular and internet service providers
- Residents are encouraged to verify that utility franchise fees on their invoices are directed to Houston Lake and not Kansas City, as every contribution is valuable to the city's budget.

Budget Format

- Budget line items have been grouped and organized for improved readability.
- Expenses equal income.

Major Line Items for 2025-2026

Grinder Pump Fund

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, eight grinder pumps were in need of repair with three of those completely failing and needing to be replaced. Only residents with grinder pumps pay into the Grinder Pump Fund. As the rate was decreased 3 years ago, these repairs and replacements have significantly depleted the Grinder Pump Fund. If any grinder pump repairs need to be made between July and December 2025, funds may need to be borrowed from the General Fund Reserve. The residential fees for grinder pumps paid on the 2025 taxes will begin to be paid out to the city in 2026. The General Fund Reserve will then begin to be reimbursed.

Street Repair

The maintenance of streets will always remain a top priority. Notably, there is a section of Edgewater Trail that was not repaved during the last round of road work. Additionally, attention is needed for culverts and ditches, along with general maintenance and patchwork to preserve the quality of the recently milled and paved areas for as long as possible. Currently, the city is in a maintenance phase rather than a repair phase for most streets, which is a positive development.

The Spillway Bridge

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year it was planned to repair the bridge with the application of a grant. That grant was not awarded to the city and the repairs could not be made. The 2025-2026 budget includes repairs to the platform of the bridge. City council will continue to apply for grants to assist in funding this and better, more comprehensive repairs of the bridge. Last year it was determined that the repairs would cost \$82,000. The city has budgeted \$40,500 with the intention of amending the 2025-2026 budget when additional grant funds are awarded.

Current Fund Balances as of June 30, 2025

Grinder Pump Fund	\$6,031.61
Road Fund	\$22,163.03
Fire Protection Fund	\$38,947.14
Sewer Fund CDs	\$16,164.79
Mill & Overlay Fund	\$16,890.62
General Fund CD (Reserve)	\$24,957.86
General Fund	\$170,734.03

Debt Service

Notably, the city has no debt at the end of 2024-2025.

In Closing

This budget isn't just a plan; it's a blueprint for an even brighter future for Houston Lake. By strategically managing our finances and investing in key areas, we're building on our strong foundation to create a community that continues to flourish, offering a safe, vibrant, and prosperous environment for all. We are confident this detailed budget will empower Houston Lake to thrive in the 2025-2026 fiscal year and beyond.

Approved July 9, 2025



City of Houston Lake Budget 2025-2026

General Fund - Income	Actual 07/01/23 - 06/30/24	Actual 07/01/24 - 06/30/25	Budget 07/01/24-06/30/25	Budget 07/01/25-06/30/26
Bond & Permit Fees	450.00	1,562.38		800
Grant for Playground		16,483.00	16,000	
Interest Earned	183.05	175.26	150	180
Municipal Court Fines	7,488.00	4,805.00	7,500	7,000
Property Taxes (PP & RE)	21,752.43	24,709.13	22,000	25,324
Houston Lake Sewer & Trash	125,149.13	132,380.79	134,000	135,378
Fire Protection Services	20,000.00	27,770.00	27,770	27,770
Grinder Pump	9,600.00	9,600.00	9,600	19,200.00
Railroad and Utility Tax	1,596.93	1,873.75	1,600	1,800
Refund from Charter Comm		110.99		
Utility Franchise Tax	41,700.23	39,855.51	42,000	42,000
VGHA Reimbursement	1,152.01	2,475.50	2,500	2,500
Equipment Sold		538.05		
Sewer CD Cashed in to Reinvest		10,903.10		
Transfer from Fire Protection Fund Reserve		12,045.00		
Transfer from Road Fund		7,700.00		
Transfer from General Fund Reserve			31,180	29,550
General Fund CD Cashed		27,708.37		
Total Income	229,071.78	320,695.83	294,300	291,502

General Fund - Expense	Actual 07/01/23 - 06/30/24	Actual 07/01/24 - 06/30/25	Budget 07/01/24-06/30/25	Budget 07/01/25-06/30/26
MAINTENANCE				
KC Sewer Maintenance	85,858.92	91,015.08	91,000	94,882
Trash Disposal	41,081.16	43,291.66	43,000	40,496
Bridge				40,500
Playground		19,850.00	20,000	
Property/Park Maintenance	4,587.78	19,615.80	20,593	10,000
Snow Removal	7,182.50	8,545.00		
ADMINISTRATION				
Employee Salaries and Expense				
Mayor	800.00	300.00	1,200	1,200
Aldermen (4)	2,400.00	2,300.00	2,400	2,400
City Clerk	600.00	2,400.00	2,400	2,400
Bookkeeper	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600	3,600
City Collector	600.00	600.00	600	600
Code Administration	297.50		3,500	
Maintenance	1,938.00	1,464.55	3,000	
Cleaning (City Hall)	550.00	600.00	600	600
Payroll Taxes - all	1,795.48	1,791.60	2,300	1,700
Taxes Withheld from gross	(825.02)	(862.09)		
Training and Education	675.00	584.00	1,000	1,000
Travel/Mileage	85.84		300	150
Utilities				
Electric	1,441.75	1,342.09	1,600	1,700
Gas	1,555.78	1,706.33	1,700	1,900
Water	664.09	279.55	400	350
Supplies				
Kitchen and Restroom Supplies		77.93	500	200
Office Supplies	2,346.45	1,696.24	2,500	2,000
Office Equipment/Maintenance	462.48	1,155.06	1,000	2,604
Administrative				
Advertising	481.69		200	0
Attorney Fees/Acctg Fees/Codifying	8,856.35	2,504.85	8,000	6,000
Bond, Permit and Building Inspection				

Court - Domestic Shelter	154.00	52.00	165	100
Court - Law Enforcement Training	154.00	52.00	165	100
Election Expense	329.14	789.02	800	800
Gifts/Awards/Donations	721.51	241.72	1,000	500
Insurance	7,133.00	7,629.00	7,500	7,750
Law Enforcement Services	16,750.21	13,277.17	17,000	17,000
Special Events	222.78	170.93	1,000	1,000
Tax Reconciliation		6,407.01	6,407	
Technology Services	3,000.66	3,433.21	3,000	3,000
Sewer CD Reinvested		10,903.10		
Transfer to Grinder Pump Fund	9,600.00	9,600.00	9,600	19,200
Transfer to Fire Protection Fund	20,000.00	27,770.00	27,770	27,770
Transfer to Road Fund		7,700.00		
Total Expense	225,101.05	291,882.81	285,800	291,502

Grinder Pump Fund - Income	Actual	Actual	Budget	
	07/01/23 - 06/30/24	07/01/24 - 06/30/25	07/01/24-06/30/25	07/01/25-06/30/26
Interest Earned	239.78	237.20	200	250
Transfer from Grinder Pump Fund			13,200	
Grinder Pump	9,600.00	9,600.00	9,600	19,200
Total Income	9,839.78	9,837.20	23,000	19,450

Grinder Pump Fund - Expense				
Pump Install/Repair/Replace	12,851.39	27,886.22	23,000	19,450
Total Expense	12,851.39	27,886.22	23,000	19,450

Fire Protection Fund - Income	Actual 07/01/23 - 06/30/24	Actual 07/01/24 - 06/30/25	Budget 07/01/24-06/30/25	Budget 07/01/25-06/30/26
Interest Earned	333.94	477.36	200	450
Transfer from Fire Protection Fund Reserve			13,345	5,280
Special Tax Levy	20,000.00	27,770.00	27,770	27,770
Total Income	20,333.94	28,247.36	41,315	33,500
Fire Protection Fund - Expense				
Snow Removal		8,545.00	8,545	8,500
Fire Protection	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000	15,000
Fire Protection Operations	5,040.00	8,950.00	17,770	10,000
Total Expense	20,040.00	32,495.00	41,315	33,500
Road Fund - Income				
	Actual 07/01/23 - 06/30/24	Actual 07/01/24 - 06/30/25	Budget 07/01/24-06/30/25	Budget 07/01/25-06/30/26
Interest Earned	20.65	33.49	20	30
Parkville Road District	2,765.85	97.70	2,800	2,800
Transportation Sales Tax (Project)			12,000	17,500
Transportation Sales Tax Previous Yrs	22,000.00			
Transfer from General Fund		7,700.00		
Transfer from Road Fund			11,520	
MODOR Vehicle Tax Rebates	11,882.91	12,903.24	12,000	12,000
Total Income	36,669.41	20,734.43	38,340	32,330
Road Fund - Expense				
Transfer to General Fund		7,700.00		
Street Lighting	3,458.15	3,454.52	3,500	3,500
Street Maintenance	9,260.00	35,024.09	34,840	11,330
Total Expense	12,718.15	46,178.61	38,340	14,830

Approved July 9, 2025