

Houston Laker

Since March 1957 – Edition 68

September 2025 issue



**Art Circle
Showing
August 16,
2025**



Mayor Sarah Schofield (right) appoints
Teresa Olson (center) as Houston Lake's newest
Alderman at the August 13, 2025 City Council meeting.



City Clerk Lisa Shepard (right) swears
Teresa Olson in.

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 = 77 pages of the History of Houston Lake for \$5.00 each.

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

Lake Life September Events

Trash and Recycling pick up is every Wednesday

1st – Labor Day

10th - City of Houston Lake City Meeting at 6:30pm, City Hall

15th – 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 918-633-4109 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.

22nd – First Day of fall

Venetian Gardens Homes Association Annual Meeting is Saturday October 25th, 2025 at 1:00pm – City Hall.

A little about Don and Jennifer Miller

When Don retired, we sold our home, bought a fifth-wheel RV and dually truck, and traveled full-time for four years. We learned to enjoy outdoor activities...especially hiking the trails in National and State parks.

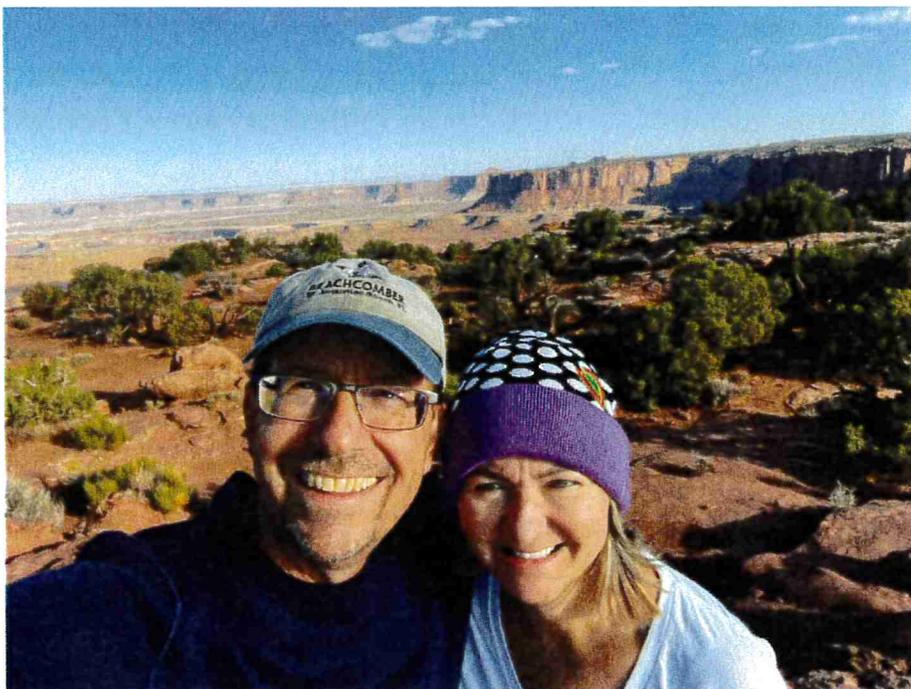
We settled in Houston Lake in May, 2024 after searching the Kansas City Metro for a home in a community that was “eclectic”, had easy access to all that KC has to offer and was an easy commute to our youngest daughter’s house (grandkids, you know!).

We had never heard of Houston Lake, but when we viewed our home and drove (and walked) around the entire city, we knew it was right for us. That was confirmed on the day we closed and numerous neighbors gathered in our yard to introduce themselves. We had retired from The Woodlands (North Houston) Texas, and we really didn’t know any of our neighbors down there...even next door. So it has been a double blessing to find a home and neighbors we now love.

From Don:

I hope my appreciation for this community shows as I take on the role of VGHA Treasurer and try to fill the shoes of Sue Hodges.

I retired in 2019 as Director of Accounting for a publicly traded, oil and natural gas exploration company. My experience (19 years with that company) covered various accounting management, taxation and budgeting roles. While having no experience in “homeowner association” accounting, most procedures transfer well. Plus, I have Sue to call if it gets over my head! Please reach out to me any time you have questions or suggestions about the financial reports of Venetian Gardens Homes Association.



Venetian Gardens Homes Association – Notes from the Treasurer

I'd like to take a moment to thank Sue Hodges for the many years of service she has provided to the Homes Association! As I've attempted to step into her shoes, I have come to realize the countless hours of volunteer service she has provided to our community over the past eight years. It's rare to find someone with both the financial knowledge and the willingness to serve, but that description fits Sue.

Thank you Sue!

As we begin the process of preparing our VGHA budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, there are numerous items that come to mind as we fund the operations of our community. I'd like to suggest that these expense items fall into three categories: Required; Needed and Wanted.

Required: I consider required expenditures to be items that we must pay simply to retain the status quo health of our community. These expenditures include dead/dying tree removal, brush removal, mowing, aerator repairs, electricity, water, insurance, taxes, office supplies and printing, and distribution of the Houston Laker. The largest line-item in the budget is for tree and brush removal. As trees deteriorate and die, they cause a double hazard to our lake: damage by falling on persons or property and damage caused by organic materials falling into the lake. The cost of a single tree removal can typically be \$2-2,500. Put another way; removing just a single tree requires the dues from about five homeowners.

Our current dues of \$450 per year are estimated to only provide a "breakeven" on the Required expenses noted above. There would be no increase in any available reserves for future remediation of lake depth and water quality; restoration of VGHA property or equipment should there be a significant or catastrophic flood or windstorm; unforeseen major expense; or for erecting any new structures at the parks or beach to benefit the entire community.

Needed: A casual walk around our lake, cruise on a pontoon boat or paddle on a kayak, provides visual evidence of the need for significant remediation work. There are spots where geese stand ankle-deep in the center of the lake. Boats cannot pass through from the lower to the upper end of the lake without the risk of getting stuck. Harmful algae growth depletes oxygen and causes beneficial plants and fish to be eliminated. These issues will need to be addressed with a three-pronged approach:

1. Additional dredging will be required to deepen "at least a channel" along the north side of the upper end of the lake.
2. Monitoring of the current pilot bio-pod system and expansion to other parts of the lake once results are proven. This system aids in the removal of deteriorating organic materials which promote growth of algae, deplete oxygen and create "muck" levels that are greater than three feet in many parts of the lake.
3. Removal of invasive plant species along the shore and inlets of the lake (particularly bush honeysuckle). Replace with native shoreline and waterborne plants that slow-down and filter the sediments, allowing less to enter the lake from upstream. A significant amount of this work could be done by volunteers.

Wanted: I've only lived in Houston Lake for a year, so I'm sure I haven't heard all the ideas of projects that could make our community more livable. But here are some things I've heard:

More sand, more cleaning at the beach area

More manicured park areas

Additional VGHA member boat docks or small marina

Playground equipment and additional shelters and tables in VGHA parks

A large gathering pavilion

Shoreline protection, riprap in spots, seawall repairs in spots

Community events; fireworks; kayak races; art festivals in our parks

And more!

In closing, I believe it is safe to say that we all want Houston Lake to continue to be a viable, healthy, safe, fun and beautiful community...as our predecessors passed on to us. To achieve that goal, we should be prepared to pay annual dues that support this objective. We all know that the cost of goods and services has increased significantly over the past five years, while our annual dues have not. Please consider entertaining the thought of higher dues as we move forward with the 2025-2026 budget vote.

Please reach out to me or any Board member with any questions, comments, or suggestions you may have.

Thanks!

Don



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 **22** it was taken August 18th, 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.



Venetian Gardens Homes Association Open Meeting July 21, 2025

Present were: Pam Freese, Mary Head,
Don Miller and Monica Beshears.

Frank Wilson was excused.

The meeting began @ 6:35 p.m.

Finances: Don expressed that very little changed from last month. Invoices that have come in have been paid. A \$4,000.00 invoice to Edwards Construction for part of the brush clearing. The only payment received in June was in the amount of \$450.00.

Don asked for approval to consider the \$98,000.00 that is in a premier money market, he would like approval to investigate with the same bank (Community America) a 90 day CD that pays .75 percent higher than the current money market. He mentioned that if he moved \$90,00.00 we would have \$8,000.00 in the money market and \$11,000.00 in the checking account that would leave us about \$20,000.00 in available cash. Pam agreed to have Don investigate this with the bank and bring the information/details to our next work meeting to be discussed further.

Don proposed a motion that we approve an additional \$1,000.00 to be paid to Edwards Construction Company for the remaining balance of the brush clearing bill. The vote was approved for payment.

A discussion was made by Don to consider investigating filing foreclosure actions on the 3 properties with the largest balance dues as 1 of those properties is reaching the 10 yr mark. Pam agreed to have Don investigate the process of filing a foreclosure so that it can be discussed in our next working meeting. A motion was made by Pam to allocate \$1000.00 so that Don can begin to investigate the HOA's foreclosure process. The motion was voted on and passed.

Don will distribute the Lake bracelets.

Bio Pods were changed on July 21, 2025

Pam: received hardware from Rigerio to replace loss bolts. They will also send out additional equipment that will help us take them out and clean them. Pam has also begun to measure muck from Jake and Shelly's and all the way towards the backside of Venetian.

Pam has contacted MoDot twice about the damage to the spillway and has not heard anything back as of yet but will continue reaching out to them.

Approval of June minutes was made.

HOA Open Meeting on Aug. 18th

Next working meeting to be held on Aug. 8th @ 2:00 p.m.

Pam will be out from October 8th through the 25th.

Annual HOA meeting on Saturday October 25th @ 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:25 p.m.



**VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKING
SESSION
AUGUST 15, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President, Pam Freese at 5:00 pm. Board members present by Zoom online conference were:

Pam Freese
Mary Head
Frank Wilson
Don Miller

BUDGET

Initial drafts of the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget were presented by Don Miller. A line-by-line review and discussion of all revenue and expense projections was conducted. It was noted that the current annual dues amount is only adequate to cover recurring operating expenses. Any efforts to remediate lake depth or quality will require an increase in fees.

Don will prepare an article for the next addition of the Houston Laker to focus the attention of the community on the need for dues increases to maintain and improve the lake. He will also present the same information during the Treasurer's report at the Monday, August 18 VGHA open meeting.

Final budget presentation (with at least 3 dues options submitted for member vote) is required at the October annual meeting.

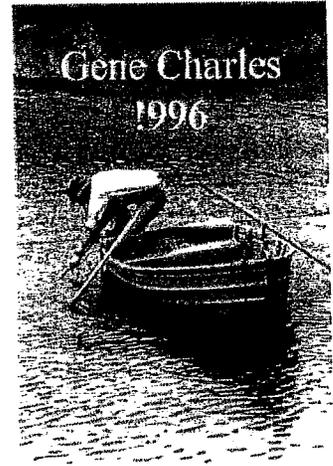
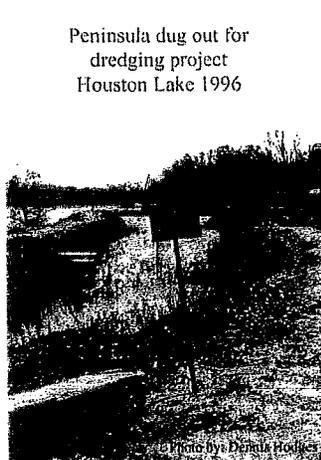
REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP BY A NON-RESIDENT

An inquiry for a paid membership in the Venetian Gardens Homes Association which would grant lake privileges to a non-homeowner of Venetian Gardens was discussed. The board voted unanimously to deny this request.

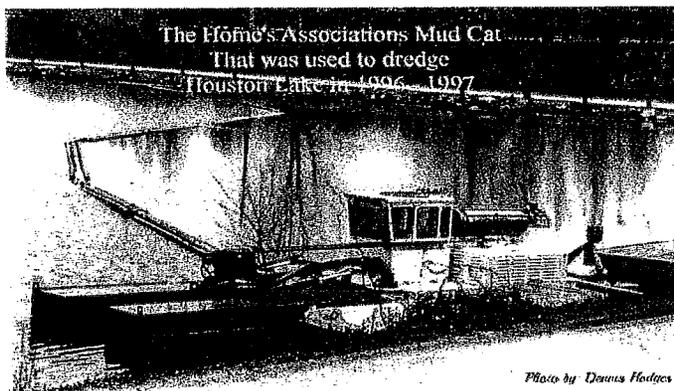
ADJOURNMENT

The working meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Signed: Don Miller, Treasurer



Please
Don't
Pro·cras·ti·nate
Attend The
Next City &
HOA Meetings



Please
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Linda and Gene Charles moved to Houston Lake in 1957. Linda served on the HOA Board for 27 years as secretary and treasurer. When Harry Callicotte was President of the HOA he bought a used dredge that was in bad shape. Gene had served in the Air Force, and he worked for TWA. He had a lot of mechanical skills so he volunteered to rebuild the dredge plus he helped run it. Home owner, Mike Corbett owned a body shop so he offered to paint it. Debbie Smith, new to Houston Lake volunteered to run the dredge.

It costs a lot to have silt hauled off. This team was very creative, they dug a big trench on the Peninsula and run some big pipes in the edge closest to the lake. They used the dredge to pump the silt & water into the trench. The silt and mud settled to the bottom forcing the water to rise up into the pipes and back into the lake. There were almost no hauling costs involved. This whole project took two years to complete.

" EVERYONE " that volunteers enables the community with the ability to solve problems that will bring positive and lasting changes.

My Sea Voyage

On my sea voyage two years later back to the ZI ("Zone of the Interior"), I boarded the USNS Gen. D.E. *Aultman* Aug. 13, 1952. Our first stop was *Iloilo on Panay Island* to take on 500 *Filipino* civil service workers for *Guam*. For 5 days, every other meal was fish and rice (someone called it fish heads and rice). One night we had beans and cornbread. For breakfast I stood in the rain to get in the chow hall and was served crunchy beans (@ half cooked) and leftover cornbread. They must have run out of fish heads and rice.

I was still on the work list. The guy who assigned me led me to a room with 6 huge ovens and a sink for washing pots and pans – my job. I told him that I worked every day coming over and lost weight that I hadn't gained back and I didn't mind working unless it jeopardized my health. Since we knew each other, I said, "Throw me overboard or lock me up" – I refuse to work in there – (it was stifflingly hot)". That was an unpardonable military sin-insubordination. Thankfully, he assigned to clean floors in the mess hall.

The *Aultman* had steel decks as opposed to the teakwood decks of the *Darby* but she rode smoother than the *Darby*. She also had 3 benches on each side-just plank on posts. They were just long enough that two privileged bodies could stretch out on one, which some usually did. There were stacks of deck chairs on the aft deck but there was a fence across the deck separating the military dependent's quarters from us. Two other military ships I've sailed on had no deck seating of any kind. On one ship we even ate standing up. One day 3 or 4 of us cleaned the deck under a lifeboat so we could sit or lay on the deck. Then it was fun time to drain that lifeboat. Sad to say, there are too many around who get their kicks that way.

On the 17th day voyage, besides *Iloilo*, we stopped at *Guam* and *Honolulu* then finally *Yerba Buena Island, SF Calif.*

This is what my mom would say is what the shoemaker killed his wife with-the awl & the last-the last being the shoemaker's "anvil"-this is my last story. Please don't say "finally" I was just doing my best at what I was asked to do.

By Gene Charles



City of Houston Lake City Council and Venetian Gardens Homes Association Minutes of the Joint Meeting

Date: Tuesday, the 20th day of May, 2025

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

The Joint Meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO and the Venetian Gardens Homes Association, was called to order by Mayor, Sarah Schofield and President, Pam Freese at 6:34 PM. Some attended the meeting virtually and are indicated with a "V".

The following persons were present:

City of Houston Lake

Sarah Schofield, Mayor
Jesse Beshears, Alderman
Lisa Shepard, City Clerk
Marsha Duncan, Alderman "V"
Ashley Fuglestad, Alderman "V"
Sarah Loring, Alderman "V"

Venetian Gardens Homes Assoc

Pam Freese, President
Monica Beshears, Secretary
Mary Head, Board Member at Large
Don Miller, Assistant Treasurer
Susan Hodges, Treasurer "V"

The following items were discussed:

Community Events Calendar
Shared Costs
Verification of Mowing Map
Missouri Department of Natural Resources & Missouri Department of Conservation
Who requires Access Codes to city buildings

Schofield and Freese adjourned the meeting at 8:34 PM

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard and Secretary, Monica Beshears

Approved by the Houston Lake City Council on June 18, 2025

Approved by the Venetian Gardens Homes Association Board on August 18, 2025

City Council Welcomes Teresa Olson as Alderman

Teresa has been a resident of Houston Lake for 9 years, serving on the Venetian Gardens Homes Association board, Planning and Zoning and volunteering at numerous city events and projects. We look forward to collaborating with Teresa and thank her for stepping forward to serve.

Council is searching one additional Alderman to play 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



City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, the 9th day of July, 2025

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

The regular meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Sarah Schofield on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 6:32 PM.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Loring moved to approve the 06/18/2025 City Council Meeting minutes. Beshears 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by the two aldermen present, and Duncan virtually. Beshears moved to approve the 06/24/2025 City Council Budget Meeting minutes. Duncan 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by Beshears (present), and Duncan (virtual). Loring abstained.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Riverside Fire Department Report - Keith Payne, Assistant Fire Chief, was unable to attend the meeting in person. He reported, via email to the City Clerk, no calls in Houston Lake during June 2025.

Platte Co Sheriff's Report - Deputy Matt Knabe reported five calls for service in June for a total of 30.25 hours: 1 animal bite-attack, 1 disturbance, 1 fireworks, 1 lost/missing property, and 1 suspicious person-vehicle.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Annemarie Murphy reported her husband, Weezy Shaw, repaired and remounted the Houston Lake sign at 56th and Adrian. (Those present thanked him for his efforts.) Sharron delaFuente thanked the community for the "4th on the 5th" celebration. She especially thanked the Mayor. Deitri Ellis had questions regarding a building permit she wished to submit.

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 August edition of the Houston Laker is July 21, 2025. The Mayor, on behalf of the entire Council, thanked VGHA for partnering with the City on the "4th on the 5th" event.

PERMITS

None

FINANCIAL REPORTS

(Shepard noted it was July 9 but Kay Honeycutt, Bookkeeper, was able to prepare the end of the fiscal year financials - 6/30/25 - in record time. Honeycutt was thanked for her efforts.) Financial Reports dated 06/30/25 were accepted as presented. Sewer CD - Currently \$5,261.69 and due to mature. Beshears moved to let the CD cash into the General Fund then combine it with the other Sewer CD when it matures in October into the highest earning short term investment option (90 day or best option). Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by the two aldermen present, and Duncan virtually. Amend Budget for 2024-2025 - Discussion regarding a correction to the Fire Protection Fund Special Tax Levy to increase the budgeted amount from \$20,000 to \$27,770 (the actual amount collected) and move the expenses paid for snow removal in 2024-2025 to the Fire Protection Fund (and actually reimburse the General Fund for this expense). Loring moved to approve the Amended Budget for 2024-2025 as discussed. Beshears 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by the two aldermen present, and Duncan virtually. Grinder Pumps - a recent history of financing of the 40 homes that have grinder pumps was presented. Schofield intends to meet with those 40 homeowners ahead of the Tax Levy meeting to explain this history in detail. Approval of 2025-2026 Budget - Discussion regarding the 2025-2026 Budget as presented. It was determined that the \$8,500 proposed for snow removal from the General Fund should be moved to the Fire Protection Fund. To keep the General Fund Budget balanced, that \$8,500 should be added to the \$32,000 proposed for the bridge (increasing the budgeted bridge amount to \$40,500). Decrease the proposed \$13,220 Fire Protection Operations expense to \$10,000. Transfer \$5,280 from the Fire Protection Fund Reserve. This would balance the 2025-2026 Fire Protection Fund budget to \$33,500 income and expense. Schofield read the Preamble to the 2025-2026 Budget (which will become a part of the budget). Beshears moved to accept the proposed 2025-2026 budget including the changes discussed. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by the two aldermen present, and Duncan virtually. Investment Options - discussion regarding looking at other avenues for earnings for reserved funds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

Shepard reported a "speed machine" which can monitor vehicle speeds throughout the city will soon be available to Houston Lake from the Platte County's Sheriff's Department.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Loring thanked everyone for the "4th on the 5th" Event. She thanked Shepard and Honeycutt for the financials that are being presented. She will research a use tax for potential more funding for the city. Beshears thanked Shepard and Honeycutt for their work on the budget. He reported the City Hall garage doors are all now functional. Duncan reported contacting three snow removal companies for bids.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Schofield thanked Duncan for her service on the Council. She reported Duncan has offered her resignation as of the conclusion of this meeting. A search had been started for a person to replace Alderman Fuglestad so a person to fill Duncan's seat will be added to the search. She thanked everyone who came out to the "4th on the 5th" event. She suggested a new cookbook is needed to be compiled for Houston Lake. Lots of projects are coming up. She intends to present quarterly reports on these in the Houston Laker.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 08/13/2025



Public Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, the 9th day of August, 2025

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

A special public meeting was called to order by Mayor Sarah Schofield on Saturday, August 9, 2025 at 10:06 AM.

Those present were: Mayor Sarah Schofield, City Clerk Lisa Shepard, and Houston Lake residents: Bobbie Baker-Hughes, Sharron delaFuente, Teresa Olson, and Linda Gail Simmons.

The meeting consisted of a discussion of past, current, and potential future grinder pump fees to be paid by those residents whose homes at Houston Lake include grinder pumps.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 10:38 AM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Letter from the Mayor

Hello neighbors! So many good things are happening at Houston Lake. If you have any questions, concerns or want to jump in and help, email mayor@houstonlake.gov.

Here are the key points regarding ongoing initiatives at Houston Lake:

- **City Funds:** The City Council has approved investing some of the city's funds with Missouri Securities Investment Program (MOSIP) - an investment company designed specifically for schools and cities to help maximize earnings. This strategy aims for higher interest rates than are currently available from traditional banks while ensuring accessibility of funds for operational needs.
- **Records Room Repair and Maintenance:** Necessary work is pending in the records room to mitigate moisture and humidity, including the installation of a dehumidifier with dedicated drainage.
- **City Hall Building Utilization:** The Council is actively exploring options, legal implications, and insurance requirements for renting out the City Hall building to residents for meetings, events, and other functions.
- **Halloween Event Planning:** The City, in collaboration with the VGHA and the Houston Lake Arts Circle, will commence planning for the annual Halloween event.
- **Holiday Decorations Installation:** Beautiful holiday decorations are available for street display this season. The use of a lift or suitable equipment is being explored to facilitate installation.
- **Street Sign Repurposing and Installation:** 811 has been contacted for utility marking at road intersections. This will enable the repurposing of existing street sign poles from the city garage to replace current PVC poles and for the addition of new poles.
- **Road Maintenance:** A pothole on Venetian requires filling, and numerous cracks throughout the city's roads need patching prior to seasonal weather changes.
- **Permitting Process Review:** The Council is reviewing the current permitting process, gathering information from cities of comparable size and budget, and consulting with external inspectors and Platte County to streamline the process.
- **Codes Enforcement:** There is currently a minimal number of properties with code violations. As Mayor, my objective is to ensure residents are fully informed of applicable codes and receive fair and impartial review of any alleged violations.
- **Alderman Position Interviews:** The Council continues to seek qualified candidates to complete the four-member council. Invitations extended for interviews for the Alderman role remain open; interested parties are encouraged to contact the council to schedule a meeting.
- **Honeysuckle Removal and Native Species Planting:** A collaborative effort with the VGHA and the Missouri Department of Conservation is underway to remove Chinese Honeysuckle from HOA and City properties and replace it with native species beneficial to the city and the lake environment.
- **Hazardous Tree Identification:** I will conduct a walk-through with a licensed and insured tree trimming company to identify hazardous trees in advance of the fall brush pickup.

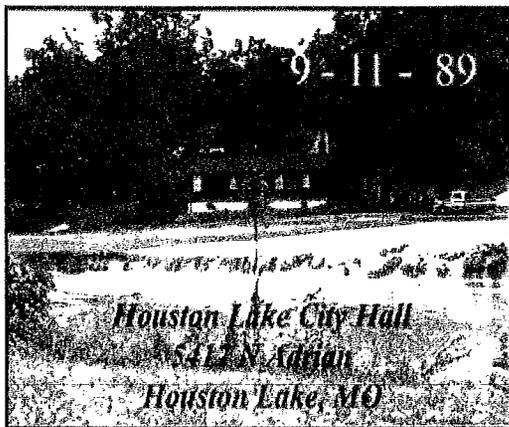
Thank you for being the best part of a great city!

Sarah Schofield
Mayor of the City of Houston Lake

NOTE: Missouri State Statute RSMO 79.160 requires Boards of fourth class cities (such as Houston Lake) to review and publish a semi-annual financial report. This January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025 statement was reviewed and approved by the Council at the City Council Meeting on 08/13/25.

City of Houston Lake
Condensed Statement of Income and Expenditures
Beginning January 1, 2025 and Ending June 30, 2025

	General Fund	Road Fund	Grinder Pump Fund	Fire Protection Fund	Municipal Court	Municipal Court Bond	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	BUDGET
BALANCE AS OF 01/01/25	132,488.77	17,686.29	23,005.31	35,904.79	1,468.01	519.75	211,072.92	
INCOME & RECEIPTS								
Bonds, Permits & Fees	690.00						690.00	
HL Sewer / Trash	122,712.64						122,712.64	134,000
Municipal Court Fines	967.50						967.50	7,500
Parkville Road District					110.99		110.99	2,800
Refund from Charter Communications	110.99						110.99	
Property Tax (PP/PRE/GP/FP)	57,880.11						57,880.11	59,370
Railroad & Utility Tax	1,873.75						1,873.75	1,600
Grinder Pump Tax			9,600.00				9,600.00	9,600
Special Tax Levy - Fire Protection				27,770.00			27,770.00	27,770
Transportation Sales Tax							0.00	12,000
Utility Franchise Tax	21,623.89						21,623.89	42,000
Vehicle Tax Rebates		6,378.50					6,378.50	12,000
VGHOA Reimbursement	1,488.06			267.35			1,488.06	2,500
Interest Earned	107.65	11.10	129.61				515.71	570
Park Grant Reimbursement	16,483.00						16,483.00	16,000
General Fund CD cashed	27,708.37						27,708.37	
Sewer Fund CD cashed	10,903.10						10,903.10	
Equipment Sold	538.05						538.05	
General Fund Reserve							0.00	31,180
Road Fund Reserve							0.00	11,520
Fire Protection Fund Reserve							0.00	13,345
Grinder Pump Fund Reserve							0.00	13,200
Transfer from Fire Fund Reserve	12,045.00 [1]						12,045.00	
Transfer from General Fund		7,700.00					7,700.00	
Transfer from Road Fund	7,700.00						7,700.00	
TOTAL INCOME & RECEIPTS	282,832.11	14,089.60	9,729.61	28,037.35	0.00	0.00	334,688.67	396,955
DISBURSEMENTS								
Advertising							0.00	200
Attorney/Accg/Codifying	1,477.12						1,477.12	8,000
Bond, Permit & Building Inspections							0.00	
City Hall Utilities	1,835.47						1,835.47	3,700
Code Admin							0.00	3,500
Court - Domestic Shelter	20.00						20.00	165
Court - Law Enforcement Training	20.00						20.00	165
Election Expenses	789.02						789.02	800



Community Participation

Houston Lake always has been and hopefully always will be a very unique and fantastic place to live. It has been said many times that this community is one of a kind.

Most of the homeowners and renters know each other by name and are willing to help each other out when help is needed. Most of the residents participate in community events usually held at City Hall which used to be called the Community Building before Houston Lake became a city.

Houston Lake has more history than you can imagine. Did you know that the Beach Boys stayed here a couple of times when they performed in Kansas City? Do you know who named the streets at Houston Lake and why? Do you know what a silt pond is? Do you know where Houston Lake's silt is located? Do you know who designed the Horse Shoe or S Curve and how much it cost? Like to learn more about Houston Lake's History? Contact The Editor of the Houston Laker Newspaper Mary Head to buy a copy for \$5.00. If you are interested in history this will be the best money you have ever spent. You can call Mary at (816) 741-5639 or pick one up at a Venetian Garden Homes Association meeting.

It doesn't matter if you are new or have lived here for a while please attend some of the City's and or Venetian Gardens Homes Association's monthly meetings. You will find out first hand what is being done, who is doing it, and what needs to be done here in the near future. These meetings are very informative plus they are a lot more fun than watching re-runs.

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
sloring@houstonlake.gov

Jesse Beshears
jbeshears@houstonlake.gov

Teresa Olson
tolson@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**

2025 Platte County Clean Up

Standard Load Entry Fee: Cash/Check Only

Car, Pickup, SUV, Van	\$5.00
Car/Pickup & Small Trailer	\$25.00
Loads over 12' or messy	\$35.00+
Unbagged/unbundled	\$50.00+

**All Loads are subject to inspection
& any item or load may be denied**

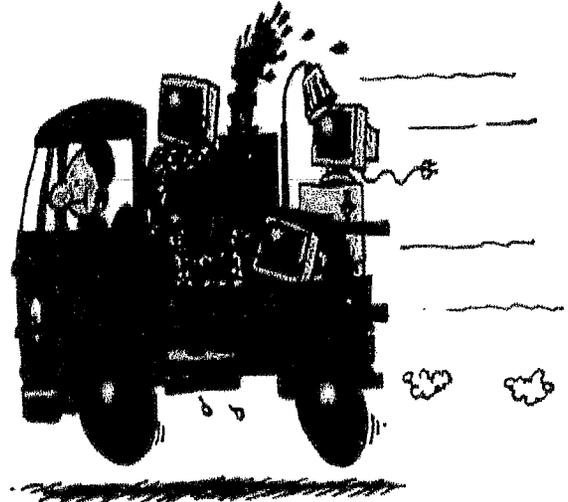
**NON-BULKY ITEMS
MUST BE
BAGGED OR BUNDLED
Subject to additional charges
if pertinent.**

Additional Fees:

Passenger Tires	\$2.00/ea
Truck/Tractor Tires	\$10.00/ea
Appliances*	
w/ compressor	\$20.00/ea
* Refrigerators, Freezers, AC Units	
All appliances must be empty	

Located at
**Platte County
Public Works**

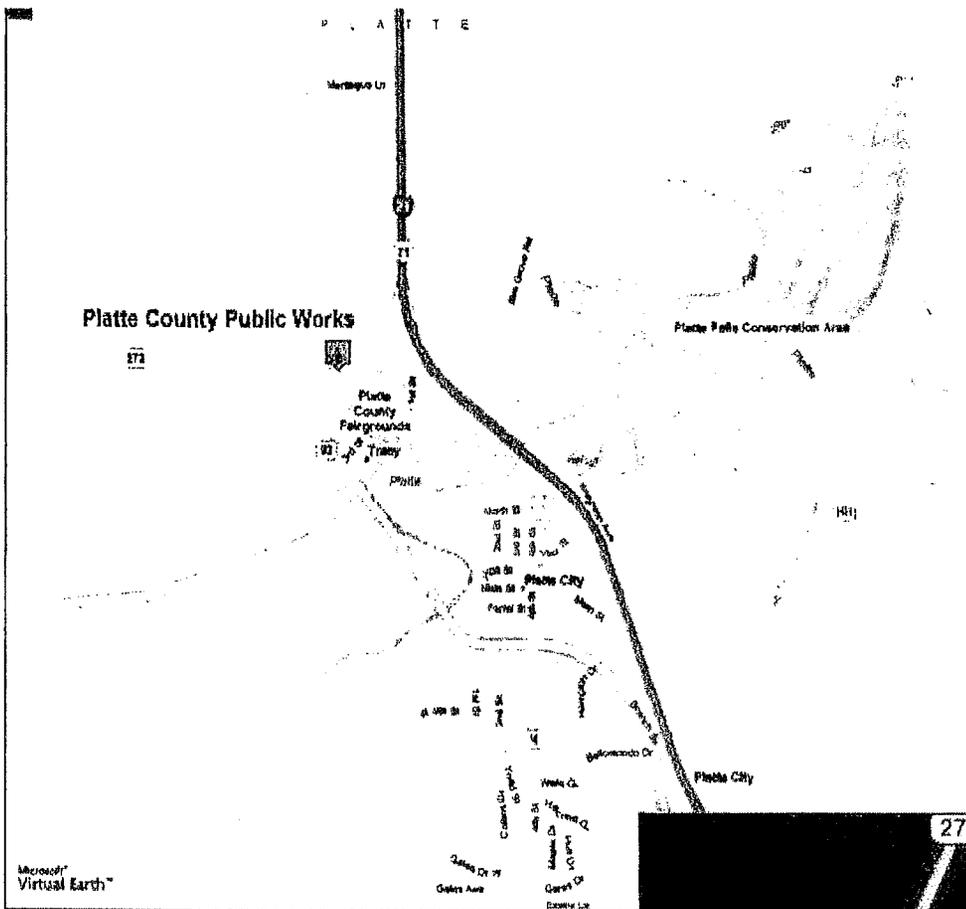
I-29 Exit 20 Tracy
15955 Hwy 273
Platte City, MO 64079



Friday, Sept. 19
Saturday, Sept. 20
7:30AM - 4:30pm

Contact the
Department of Public Works
(816) 858-2223
publicworks@co.platte.mo.us

PROHIBITED ITEMS:
Hazardous Waste, Liquid Paint,
Chemicals, and
NO
Commercial/Business Waste



Directions:

From South: I-29 Exit
20 Tracy-Turn Left
West on Hwy 273

From North: I-29 Exit
20 Tracy-Turn Right
West on Hwy 273

