

Houston Laker

Since March 1957 - Edition 68

October 2025 issue



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**

Letter from the Mayor

Happy Fall! City Council is working diligently. Here are the highlights of some of the items on our list.

Communication Plan: Enhancing Access and Engagement

To improve communication and keep residents informed, the City Council is undertaking a rework of the website to ensure it is user-friendly for both council members and the community. The site will continue to serve as a central hub, making the constant information easily accessible whenever you need it.

Key features of the updated website will include:

- Posting and updating of meeting agendas and minutes
- Continued access to current and archived editions of the Houston Laker
- Information on permits, codes, and ordinances
- A current calendar featuring direct links to events and meetings, including initiatives such as the Art Circle, VGHA, and the Community Garden

In addition to website improvements, social media platforms will be utilized for sharing timely updates and information that may change frequently. For emergency notifications, the city will implement texting to reach residents quickly and effectively. If you are not currently listed in the city directory or need to update your information, please reach out to city-council@houstonlake.gov. The hope is that if we have a specific format for sharing information, you will be more informed and open to interacting and joining in community conversations.

Road Maintenance and Community Involvement

With the changing weather, it is crucial to address road sealing and repair potholes before these issues worsen. Maintaining our roads, ditches, and culverts is a priority for the city, and we are seeking residents who are interested in helping to keep our infrastructure in good condition. If you have the time and willingness to assist with these important tasks, please email mayor@houstonlake.gov to share your availability.

Fall Brush Pick-Up and Honeysuckle Removal Initiatives

The city has scheduled the annual Fall Brush Pick-up to assist residents in managing yard debris such as limbs and leaves. Please refer to the flyer included in this edition of the Houston Laker for specific details regarding dates and procedures. In addition to property clean-up, the city is prioritizing the removal of invasive honeysuckle from key public areas. A focused effort will take place at the playground, targeting the tree line between playground equipment and the silt pond. Furthermore, Lot 126, located between Wagon Trail and Edgewood Trail, has been identified for honeysuckle control as part of a collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation to develop a use plan for Lot 126. Proposed plantings will serve multiple purposes, including providing edible plants, windbreaks, and erosion control. Once implemented, this area will be accessible and beneficial to all residents. Residents are invited to participate in these community efforts. If you can assist with honeysuckle removal, please contact the City Council at City-Council@houstonlake.gov to coordinate your availability.

Sales Tax and Use Tax Information

The city will soon be hosting Town Hall discussions focused on sales tax and use tax matters. These upcoming sessions will provide residents with the opportunity to learn more about these important financial topics, ask questions, and gain a clearer understanding of how they impact our community. Please stay tuned for announcements regarding dates and details for these informative meetings.

Thank you for being great neighbors. Let's keep the constructive conversations going! You are welcome to contact anyone on the council at city-council@houstonlake.gov.

Sarah Schofield
Mayor of the City of Houston Lake

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 October Events

Trash and Recycling pick up is every Wednesday

8th - City of Houston Lake City Meeting at 6:30pm, City Hall

25th – Venetian Gardens Homes Association Annual Meeting Saturday 1:00pm. - City Hall. To get your 2025 Wristbands sooner call Homes Association Treasurer, Don Miller at (918)-633-4109 or email him at drmiller5@icloud.com.

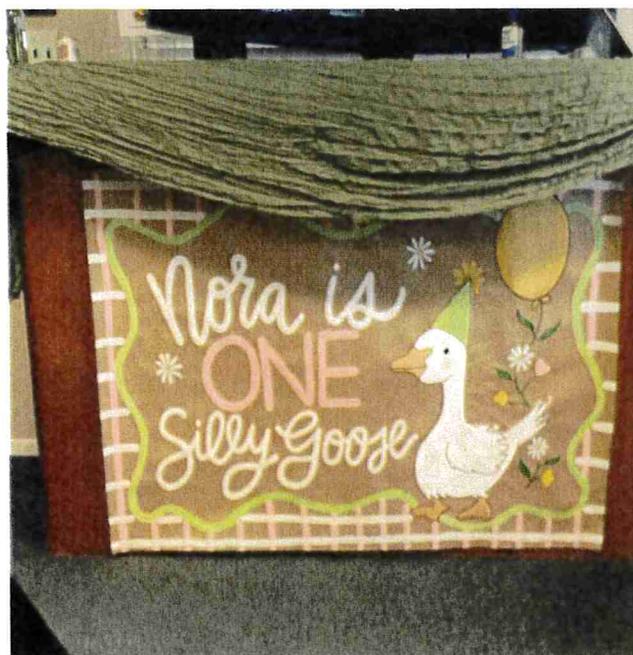
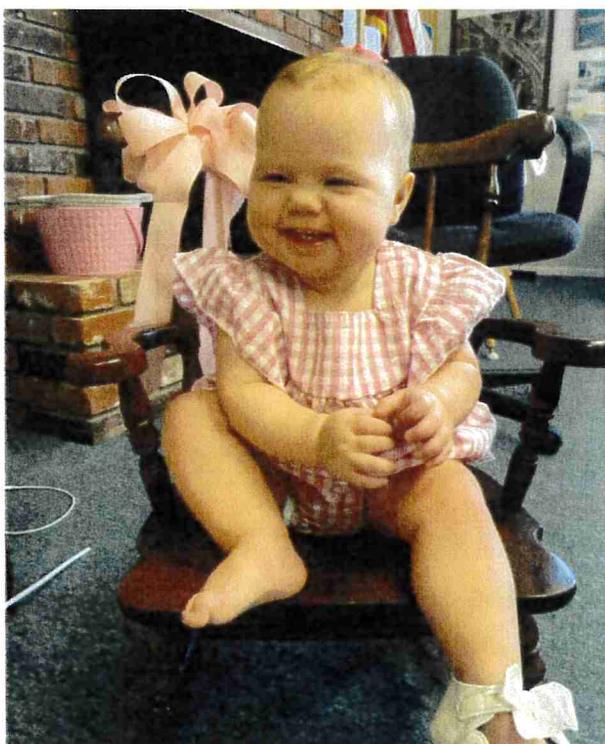
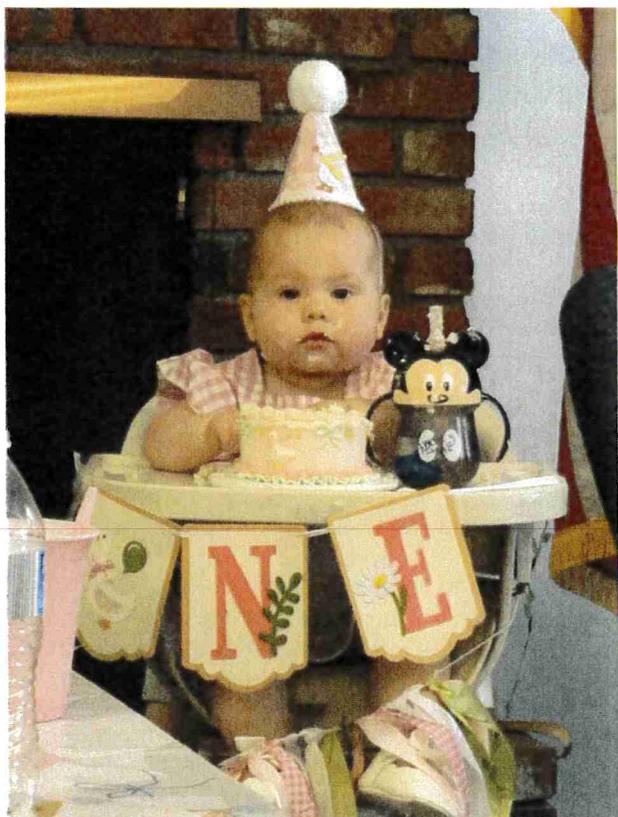
31st – Happy Halloween

Nov. 1st. We are doing the Fall Party instead of Halloween Trick or Treating.

In lieu of trick or treating this year, the City of Houston Lake and the Venetian Gardens Homes Association will be hosting a Fall Potluck & Chili Cook-Off. Residents are very welcome to use the City Hall Parking lot as a "Trunk or Treat" location and/or pass out candy from the porch or from their own residence. Stay Safe! Halloween is Friday, October 31, 2025

Happy Birthday

Nora turned 1 year old



Looking for a way to help your community on your own time?

The VGHA has been working on learning about the benefits of going with native water plants from the MO Department of Conservation. We've received recommendations of which shoreline and tributary plants would be most beneficial to reduce algae blooms and act as a silt deterrent.

How you can help: this fall chop down any honeysuckle and spray the base to kill off the invasive species, pull Johnson grass if you see any. If you are a fisherman and catch any grass carp, do not release them back into the lake as they will eat all the desirable plants before touching duckweed.

Please check with the HOA before planting anything close to the shoreline including trees.

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Freese or Don Miller.

Get moving for Walktober

Sep 01, 2025 From the Mid-America Regional Council - MARC.org



Walk during the month of October and you can win a prize.

MARC is inviting you to lace up your sneakers and take part in the Walktober Challenge this October. The goal: Get moving, explore the metro and share your journey. Participants have a chance to win a gift card from Urban Hikes KC. The gift card gives the holder two free bookings for a hike, up to \$76.

Whether you're walking solo or with family, friends or a furry companion, we want to see how you stay active. Walking is not only good for your health, it's a great way to connect with your community.

Join the challenge Joining the Walktober Challenge is easy! There are two ways to participate:

- Log any walking trip on my.waytogokc.org or the WAY TO GO app. The more trips you log, the better your chances at winning the prize.
- Or, snap a photo or video of your walk around the Kansas City metro. Tag MARC on Instagram, Facebook or LinkedIn using the hash tag #KCWalks to enter the challenge.

Participants give MARC permission to repost submitted content on social media. Not a fan of being on camera? No problem — creativity counts and you don't have to show your face to take part.

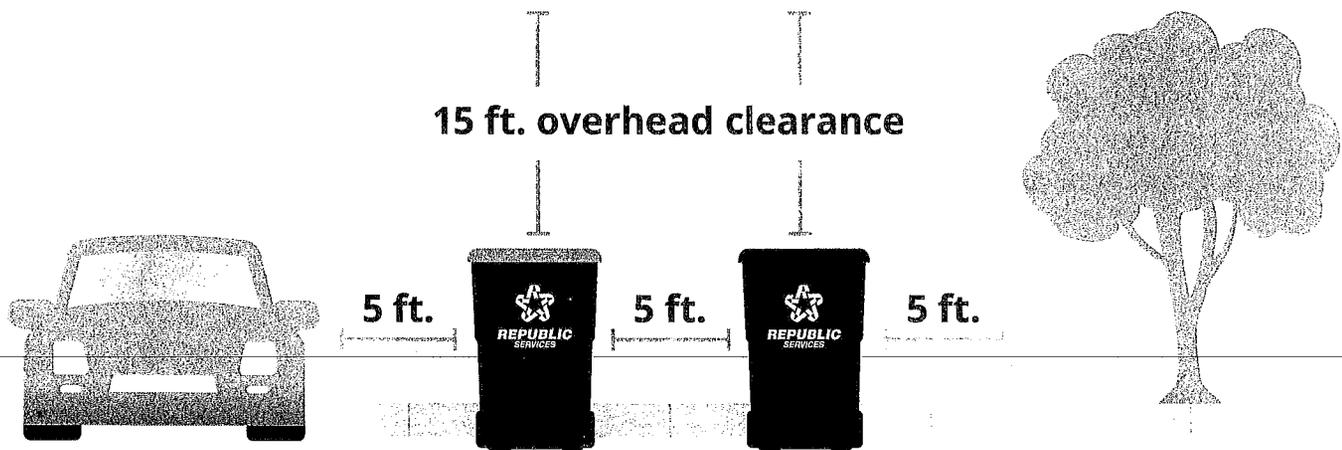
Need ideas for where to walk? Check out the Regional Trails and Bikeways Map to discover scenic routes and new places to explore. For walking events and more resources, visit KC Walks.

So grab your walking shoes, hit the trail and show us how you move.

We are doing the Fall Party instead of Halloween Trick or Treating.

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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



**2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION
Saturday October 25, 2025, 1:00pm City Hall
5417 NW Adrian, Houston Lake, Mo. 64151**

The Venetian Gardens Board of Directors invites you to attend the annual meeting. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

1. Present and approve the annual audit report.
2. Present and approve the Annual budget for 2025/2026.
3. Vote on new directors.
4. Elect president and vice president.
5. Vote on 2025/2026 member dues assessment,

There are two vacancies on the Board of Directors to be filled. The candidates and the terms of office are:

Candidate:	Term
Don Miller	2 years
Josh Williams	2 years

Voting

Only members in good standing may vote. A member in good standing is one who has paid all annual assessments, special assessments, or installments of special assessments due for the current year and who is not delinquent in payment for any previous year and whose use privilege has not been suspended by the Board of Directors.

Absentee Ballots

A member may vote by absentee ballot. To submit an absentee ballot contact Don Miller at (918)633-4109 or email him at drmillers5@icloud.com. The ballots will be assigned a random identifier. Ballots having an incorrect identifier or a duplicate identifier will be considered invalid and will not be counted. The ballot must be received by 12:00pm (noon) on October 25, 2025 by delivery to a board member or the HOA mailbox at City Hall.

Proxy Vote Information

For those of you who may not be able to attend the meeting, you may give your proxy vote to a member of your choice. The member of choice must be in good standing, both parties must sign the proxy document in the presence of a current board member and the proxy must be received by the HOA Secretary or Treasurer of the Board no later than the day before the annual meeting.

Thank you in advance for your attendance,

Venetian Gardens Homes Association Board of Directors

Venetian Gardens Homes Association

2025 Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday October 25th, 2025

1:00pm – City Hall

5417 N. Adrian Ave., Houston Lake, Mo. 64151

-
- **Voting on approval of 2025/2026 Budget**
 - **Voting on Lake Assessment dues**
 - **Voting on 2 new Board Members**
 - **Voting for President and Vice President**

The Homes Association fiscal year starts October 1, 2025 and ends September 30, 2026

The condition of our lake has been steadily deteriorating over the years. Lakes have an average lifespan of 75 years. Our lake has surpassed 95 years, highlighting the urgency of need for remediation and an aggressive approach to increased funding.

I firmly believe that every individual who does or has volunteered for service roles is genuinely committed to the well-being of both the lake and our community. Numerous upgrades and preventative measures have been implemented to tackle the silt issues affecting our lake.

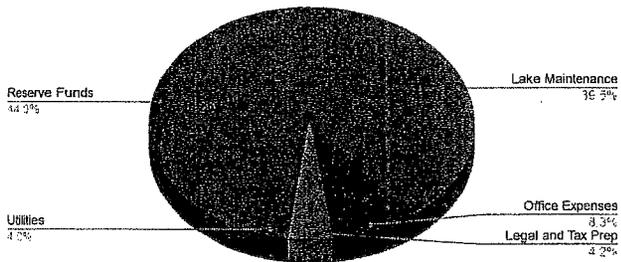
The board has developed a comprehensive long term plan to address muck, algae, and silt deposits: For mineral silt deposits, dredging remains the only effective method to restore water depth. While dredging is a significant investment, our initial plan involves creating a channel from the peninsula to the deeper areas of the lake, facilitating access to the most recently dredged sections and the largest part of the lake.

To combat organic muck accumulation, we will be installing additional bio pod aerator systems, most likely starting in the cove between Houston Lake Drive and Venetian Drive pending board approval. Recent measurements in this area indicate muck levels between 24-28 inches, despite having been dredged only 4-5 years ago. The bio pod systems use enzymes to naturally degrade organic muck.

In our efforts to manage algae blooms and improve the lake's chemistry, the board has collaborated with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Their guidance has helped us identify suitable native plants for the tributaries and determine which invasive species need to be removed.

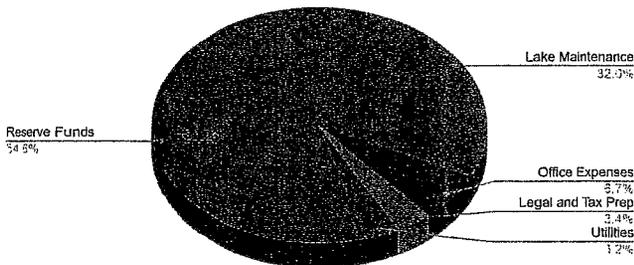
The VGHA is proposing an increase in dues specifically designated for lake remediation in this year's budget. Currently, dues are set at \$450; if adjusted for inflation, they would exceed \$570.

HOA Budget at \$450



Under the existing dues structure of \$450, our reserves accumulate enough to fund a remediation project every 6-7 years, averaging \$21,000 per year in undesignted reserves annually.

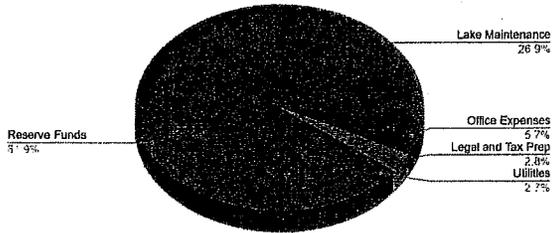
at 550



If the membership approves a \$100 annual increase, equating to approximately \$8.33 per month, the HOA will build a reserve of nearly

\$32,500 each year, allowing for remediation projects to occur every 4-5 years.

at 650



Alternatively, should the membership endorse a \$200/year increase which equates to \$16.66 per month it would allow remediation projects to happen every 2-3 years with almost \$44,000 in yearly reserves.

The future of our lake really depends on us to commit to problem solving, comprehensive solutions that look at many methods to address each specific problem and the funding to make it all happen. I strongly urge you to consider a rate increase of \$200/year \$16.66/month or \$3.85 per week. That's less than a Starbucks coffee every week.

We welcome and encourage you to attend HOA meetings and participate in saving our lake. The annual HOA meeting is October 25 at 1:00 pm. This will not only allow members to enjoy the natural beauty of our surroundings, utilize the lake for recreation, it will enhance property values.

Warmly,
Pam Freese
VGHA President



Venetian Gardens Homes Association Open Meeting

August 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Pam Freese at 6:32 pm.

Board members present were: Pam Freese, Don Miller, Mary Head, Frank Wilson, Monica Beshears

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the following meetings were reviewed and approved:

- VGHA and City of Houston Lake Joint Meeting – May 20, 2025
 - VGHA Open Meeting – July 21, 2025
 - VGHA Working Meeting – August 15, 2025
-

Department of Conservation (DOC) Meeting:

Pam Freese, Don Miller, and Sarah Schofield met with the Department of Conservation (DOC) to discuss removal of invasive plant species around the lake perimeter and planting of native Missouri species. The DOC also provided suggestions for improving the island wetlands to reduce algae growth. These ideas were sent to Pam Freese via email and will be reviewed and discussed by the board at a future meeting.

Don Miller noted that the DOC recommended most planting should occur in the spring, with preparation and clearing of invasive honeysuckle to begin in the fall. Volunteer help will be sought for the honeysuckle removal effort.

End of Lake Season Discussions:

- Lake water testing was conducted by Don Miller on August 18, 2025. Results will be published in the September issue of *The Houston Laker*.
 - Pam Freese, Laura, and Chuck Stone will measure Bio Pod effectiveness near City Hall on August 19, 2025. The findings will inform decisions on future Bio Pod investments in the upcoming budget cycle.
-

Dock Application Approval:

The dock application submitted by Brendan Brousseau was reviewed, discussed, and approved by the board.

Finances and Budget:

- Recent payments were made for electricity, water, lighting, dock cleaning, water testing, and mowing.
- Current cash balance across all bank accounts: **\$107,037.03**
(July 2025 financial statement balance was **\$104,975.93**)
- Past due notices were sent to homeowners with outstanding dues. Some payments have been received; liens will be pursued if non-payment continues.
- **Budget Note:** Current HOA dues of \$450 per household cover only essential expenses. Any future improvements (docks, dredging, lake quality enhancements) will require a discussion on increasing dues. Preliminary budget proposals will be presented at the next meeting to encourage open dialogue.

Next meeting will be on September 15, 2025 at 6:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm

Dear Residents and Home Owners,

As the leaders of your local government and HOA we in no way want to limit free speech. We all agree the first amendment is vital and important for all our citizens and community at large.

The HOA and City Council encourage you to become active, ask questions, voice concerns at our meetings or by contacting a board member or Alderman you feel comfortable to reach out to.

Opinion pieces for the Laker are welcome. We have two requests, first the complaint, question or opinion piece must be attributed to an author, secondly, the party that the piece is directed towards will have an opportunity to thoughtfully respond.

Conversations are vital to the community. Being constructive and bringing solutions are as important as making others aware of issues that are concerning. Please understand not everything can or needs to be printed. These decisions are made at the discretion of the editor.

Thank you for adhering to the guidelines.

Kindly,
Pam Freese
VGHA President

Sarah Schofield
Houston Lake Mayor

HIGHER HOA DUES? This \$4,000.00 HOA Membership Expenditure Still Sits UNUSEABLE.

From Katherine Stockbaur



Katherine,

Thank you for your question. First let me apologize for the delay of the permanent fixing of the dock. The board had several requests for locations to place the dock. We weighed, debated and met with home owners and contractors before landing on a location.

The location will be towards the end of the peninsula off to the side a bit to allow space for future dredging projects that will not require the dock to be moved.

The work is slated to be finished by mid-October barring any unforeseen events.

I encourage you and everyone to read my letter with the plans for the next year. They include a dredge project that will cut a channel through the shallows connecting the pieces just dredged to the main body of the lake, provide easy access to the water and ample parking for any member who wishes to use the HOA dock. These plans utilize reserves we currently have.

It's worth pointing out that though this is a legitimate complaint, it's framed as an argument against improving funding for lake maintenance. This is specious and unproductive. Rephrasing the argument slightly it says "the dock isn't where it's supposed to be so let's let entropy finish the lake off."

Kind Regards, Pam Freese
HOA President

"The Negritos" by Gene Charles

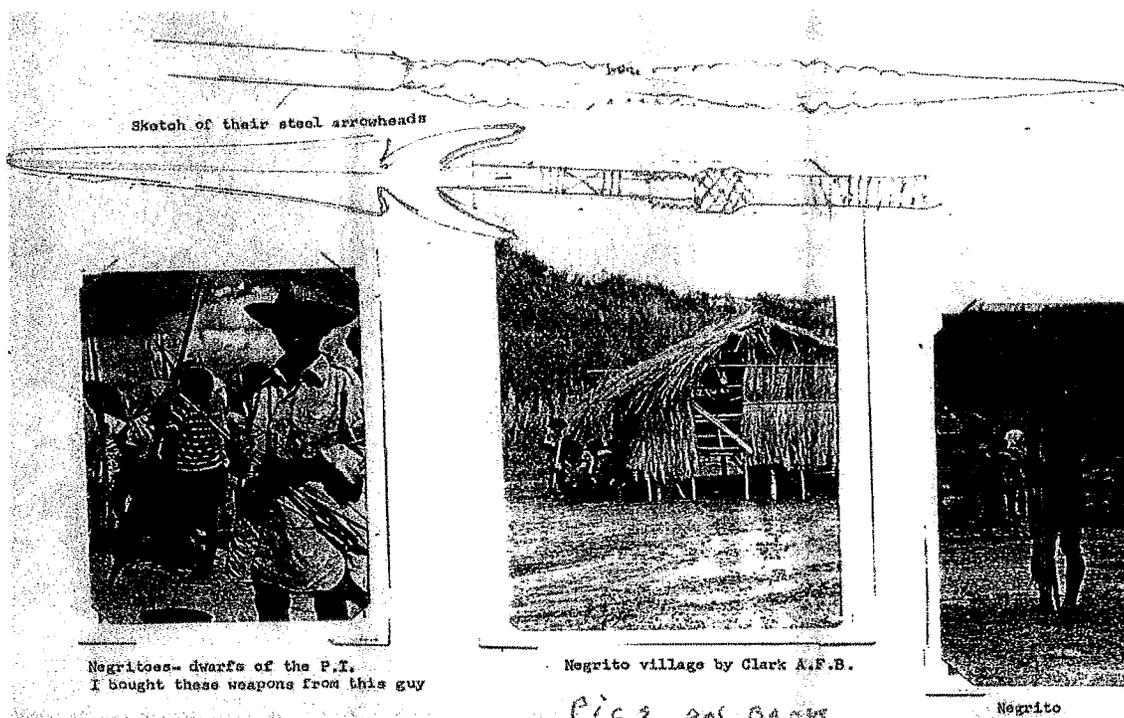
One of my favorite places in the Philippines was the mile high city of Baguio. At times a buddy and I would get a 3 day pass to visit John Hay Army rest camp located at Baguio. It was a beautiful relaxing place with cool temps with pine tree fragrance. Sometimes we'd check out a bicycle and ride around the camp and once rode to town. We came upon a beautiful monument with a long narrow reflecting pool dedicated to the Igorot Indian women who carried ammo on their heads from the Lingayen Gulf to Baguio during WWII. (A photo of it was in my fire ant story in July) Once I took a tour from camp to the Lingayen Gulf, which had a beautiful beach and a lovely place to splash around in the water. There was a half-submerged WWII tank in the Gulf. Some guys swam out to it but I'm not good enough at swimming to try that. The camp had an 18 hole golf course where I've gone several times with pilots to play golf. The runway was "something else". It was a short one, made of gravel and when we'd takeoff, where the runway ended, it was a good part of a mile drop off down the side of the mountain. To take off the other direction was a risky venture. Since there was a road on the other side of the mountain that had been shaved down as much as possible. Once we took off that way. The pilot held the brakes until he had full rpm and I extended the flaps $\frac{1}{4}$ when I was asked to. I'm sure we just barely cleared the ridge.

I thought it was funny that my buddy from Jacksonville couldn't walk up a small incline-he'd walk up on all fours-he said he'd never walked on land that wasn't level.

Corregidor, west of Manila is an island at the entrance to the Manila Bay. This is in the area where Gen. McArthur left to go to Australia in WWII. We flew very low over Corregidor one day.

Then there is the Negrito village adjacent to the fence of Clark AFB. Webster says they are a dwarfish Negroid peoples living mostly in the East Indies, the Philippines and Africa. Once we were granted liberty to visit them. They lived in straw huts and must have lived "off the land" because I didn't see any gardens nor crops. They hunted with bow and arrow. I bought two iron headed arrows and a bow from one guy and mailed them home. My brothers did something with the bow which had twisted bark for a string. I was mainly interested in the arrows, which is all I now have.

Once we were taken to the rifle range to practice shooting. A Negrito was there with a bow and arrow. A guy put up a card a ways out and the Negrito put an arrow through it.



Garden Update:

It's the end of the season and time to reflect and plan for next year's garden. We had another good year of green beans, tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers and that was no thanks to the intense heat and pouring rains that followed which caused mold and other problems. We did have a huge amount of grapes this year. Many people asked where they went to.....just know that we have some very happy birds. We'll have to figure out a different plan for them next year.

There is still a fair amount of green beans and peppers as well as ground cherries and tomatoes coming in. Please feel free to pick a few green tomatoes for frying or a green tomato salsa.

The end of this week I will be starting to close parts of the garden. Parts of the first bed will be covered and a couple tomato plants will be removed. The third section of the green bean garden has already been covered.

I will be having a garden meeting sometime in October at Minsky's pizza. Please RSVP and bring all your ideas with you. You can't imagine what a help all of you have been and I thank you.

If anyone is interested in joining our Facebook group just go to Houston Lake Missouri Community Garden and ask to join. We share garden news, recipes and even pictures of our fur babies!! Please join us

Marsha Duncan
mduncannkc@aol.com



City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, the 13th day of August, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Schofield.

Mayor Schofield appointed Teresa Olson as the newest Alderman. Olson was sworn in by City Clerk Shepard.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Beshears moved to approve the 07/09/2025 City Council Meeting minutes. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval by Beshears and Loring, Olson abstained. Minutes for a Public Meeting held on 08/09/25 at which the Mayor discussed grinder pumps with residents were presented. A quorum of the City Council was not present at the meeting so the minutes did not need to be approved. The minutes will be filed in the minute book.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Riverside Fire Department Report - no representative was present, no report.

Platte Co Sheriff's Report - Matthew Fleishaws reported six calls for service in July for a total of 28.17 hours: 1 abandoned auto, 1 citizen assist, 1 fireworks, 1 larceny-theft, and 2 residents check.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION - none.

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (VGHA) REPORT

Mary Head reported the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 18 - the annual budget will be discussed. The deadline to submit news of any kind for the September edition of the Houston Laker is August 21, 2025. Head offered more enthusiastic thanks for the new copier. Shepard indicated the production of the Houston Laker took Head only two hours to prepare this past month - a significant savings of Head's time.

PERMITS

Electrical - 5323 NW Edgewood Cir - Beshears moved to approve, including \$140 fees needed. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

Deck - 5408 NW Edgewood Trl - (Shepard noted an \$80 fee was submitted with the permit, should have been \$70 - \$10 overpayment is owed to the homeowner.) Loring moved to approve including \$10 overpayment to be returned. Olson 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

Fence - 5420 NW Edgewood Trl - Beshears moved to approve, including the addition of the \$100 performance bond. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Review of 6 months Financials for Publication - Beshears moved to accept the 6 month financial report to be published in the Houston Laker. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. Financial reports dated 07/31/25 were accepted as presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Grant Request to Parks and Recreation for Bridge - this grant application is not yet open, the process should be open by the end of this year. Can probably use previous information on application to Platte Co Storm Water to submit Parks and Recreation grant application, as well as use same info for other grant applications. Beshears also reported TMobile grant was not approved. Beshears reported a new person interested in redecking the bridge which he would like to investigate further. Beshears has not heard back from a casino regarding a grant application submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

MOSIP - Investment Program for Cities - MOSIP was recommended to Houston Lake by the Missouri Municipal League. MOSIP is especially designed to assist cities and schools with more advantageous and flexible earning opportunities (as compared to investing in CDs). Loring moved to transfer \$5,295.61 (the amount of a sewer CD which recently matured and the funds were placed in the General Fund) from the General Fund to a Sewer account to be established with MOSIP. Olson 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. The Mill and Overlay CD is due to mature on September 10. Beshears moved, when the Mill and Overlay CD matures on September 10, the proceeds be transferred to a Mill and Overlay account to be established with MOSIP. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. Records Room - Repair and Maintenance - mold and dampness has been identified in the Records Room. Several residents indicated they could take a look at the situation after the meeting. After mold is addressed, then archiving the records can be addressed. Use of City Hall Building - there is resident interest in renting City Hall for a family event. Mayor Schofield will consult insurance and legal regarding learning if establishing a rental policy is possible for Houston Lake. If possible, fees would be established.

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

Honeycutt - no report. Shepard reported swing chains at the playground are being wrapped around the cross bar. She complimented city residents on how well they are doing with placing trash and recycle bins at curbside, especially so trash truck pickup can avoid overhead trees and lines.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Beshears offered his grants reporting earlier in the meeting. **Loring** is asking more questions about a possible use tax (for potential revenue for the city) which can only be implemented if a sales tax is established. She reported having a friend that belongs to a group of small private lakes and wants to look into connecting with them. She welcomed Olson to the council. **Olson** thanked council and community for the opportunity to serve. She pointed out that Lake Lotawana has similarities to Houston Lake regarding common grounds and thinks it would be good to check with that community.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Schofield thanked Olson for joining the Council. Olson has lived at Houston Lake for 9 years and previously served on the VGHA board and the Planning and Zoning Committee. She is a good neighbor and always helps other neighbors. Help is needed with small projects, please reach out to the Mayor if you can offer volunteer help with small projects. Wants to keep main financial focus on the bridge. A grinder pump meeting with residents was recently held. Suggestions regarding ways to communicate with residents are always appreciated - mayor@houstonlake.gov. She and Pam Freese are meeting with Missouri Conservation on August 14 to look at potential native plantings. VGHA Treasurer, Don Miller, mentioned the spillway is being discussed with MODOT. Resident Katherine Stockbauer has been discussing the spillway situation with MODOT, too.

NEXT MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT

The Tax Levy meeting will be Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall. The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 09/10/2025



Tax Levy Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, the 27th day of August, 2025

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

The 2025 Tax Levy meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Sarah Schofield at 6:32 PM.

The following members were present: Mayor Sarah Schofield, Alderman Jesse Beshears, and Alderman Sarah Loring. Alderman Teresa Olson was present via remote access. A quorum was established.

City Clerk, Lisa Shepard, announced that the notice for this meeting was posted in three different areas of the city a week ahead of the meeting, as prescribed by the Missouri Constitution and the Missouri Revised Statutes. Mayor Schofield read the notice. The proposed Ordinance regarding the 2025 Tax Levy rates was posted with the notice of the meeting.

The Alderman received a review report compiled by City Clerk, Lisa Shepard; Bookkeeper, Kay Honeycutt; and Tax Collector, Kathryn Kreider regarding the General Fund Revenue and Fire Protection Fund Revenue history, review, and recommendations.

The City Clerk read out the first reading of the title of the Ordinance Setting Forth the Tax Levy for the City of Houston Lake, Missouri for the Tax Year 2025. Discussion. The City Clerk read out the second reading of the title of the Ordinance. Mayor Schofield read out the entire Ordinance setting forth the 2025 tax levy rate for the General Fund to be set at 0.4768 per \$100 valuation, and the 2025 tax levy rate for the Fire Protection Fund to be set at 0.5257 per \$100 valuation. Discussion. Loring moved to accept the rates as stated in the Ordinance (General Fund - 0.4768 per \$100 valuation and Fire Protection Fund - 0.5257 per \$100 valuation). Beshears 2nd. Loring - Aye, Olson - Aye (vote seen and heard on screen), Beshears - Aye. The 2025 Tax Levy rates are approved.

(Roll Call, for attendance purposes, was officially taken at the end of the meeting. Those in attendance were as listed above.)

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schofield adjourned the meeting at 6:39 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 09/10/2025



Financial Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, the 27th day of August, 2025

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

The Financial Meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Sarah Schofield at 6:39 PM.

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

The Alderman received a review report compiled by City Clerk, Lisa Shepard; Bookkeeper, Kay Honeycutt; and Tax Collector, Kathryn Kreider regarding the Grinder Pump, Trash Service, and Sewer Service history, review, and recommendations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ordinance Approving an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for the Investment of Public Funds through the Missouri Securities Investment Program (MOSIP) - City Clerk, Lisa Shepard, announced that the Ordinance was posted with the notice of the meeting. Shepard read out the first reading of the title of the Ordinance. Discussion. Schofield noted this relationship was approved at the August 13, 2025 City Council meeting but learned, subsequent to the meeting, that MOSIP required the city to put an Ordinance in place about the relationship. Shepard read out the second reading of the title of the Ordinance. Discussion. Loring moved to approve the Ordinance establishing Houston Lake's relationship with MOSIP. Beshears 2nd. Olson - Aye (vote seen and heard on screen), Beshears - Aye, Loring - Aye. The Ordinance passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Grinder Pump Annual Assessment for those with Grinder Pumps. The 2024 assessment for 40 homes in Houston Lake that have grinder pumps was \$240 per household. Discussion. Schofield mentioned a recent meeting held with some of the residents who have grinder pumps to discuss the rates and why a raise in the assessment is being recommended. Shepard noted, due to more than anticipated grinder pump expenses for service and replacement in 2024-2025, \$17,133 has been loaned from the General Fund to pay grinder pump expenses because there was not enough funding in the Grinder Pump Fund. Loring suggested a set plan should be put in place to pay back the General Fund. Beshears moved to raise the 2025 Grinder Pump Assessment for those with grinder pumps to \$480 per household. Olson 2nd. Beshears - Aye, Olson - Aye (vote seen and heard on screen), Loring - Aye. The \$480 Grinder Pump assessment for 2025 is approved.

Trash Service Assessment. The 2024 assessment for trash services for all residents was \$345.13 per household. A new contract was negotiated with Republic this summer which slightly lowered the rate and including recycle pickup increased to every week. Olson moved to lower the 2025 Trash Service Assessment, per the new contract, to \$333 per household. Loring 2nd. Loring - Aye, Beshears - Aye, Olson - Aye (vote seen and heard on screen). The \$333 Trash Service assessment for 2025 is approved.

Sewer Service Assessment. The 2024 assessment for sewer services for all residents was \$739.96 per household. Kansas City Water, our current sewer service provider, has slightly raised its rates. Discussion. Loring moved to increase the 2025 Sewer Service Assessment, per the contract, to \$771.40 per household. Beshears 2nd. Olson - Aye (vote seen and heard on screen), Beshears - Aye, Loring - Aye. The \$771.40 Sewer Service assessment for 2025 is approved.

PERMIT

Dock - 5315 NE Edgewood Cir - Discussion. Olson moved to approve the dock permit contingent that the owner of Lot 79 does not offer dissent regarding the permit. Loring 2nd. Beshears - Aye, Loring - Aye, Olson - Aye (vote seen and heard on screen). The permit is approved with contingency.

ADJOURNMENT

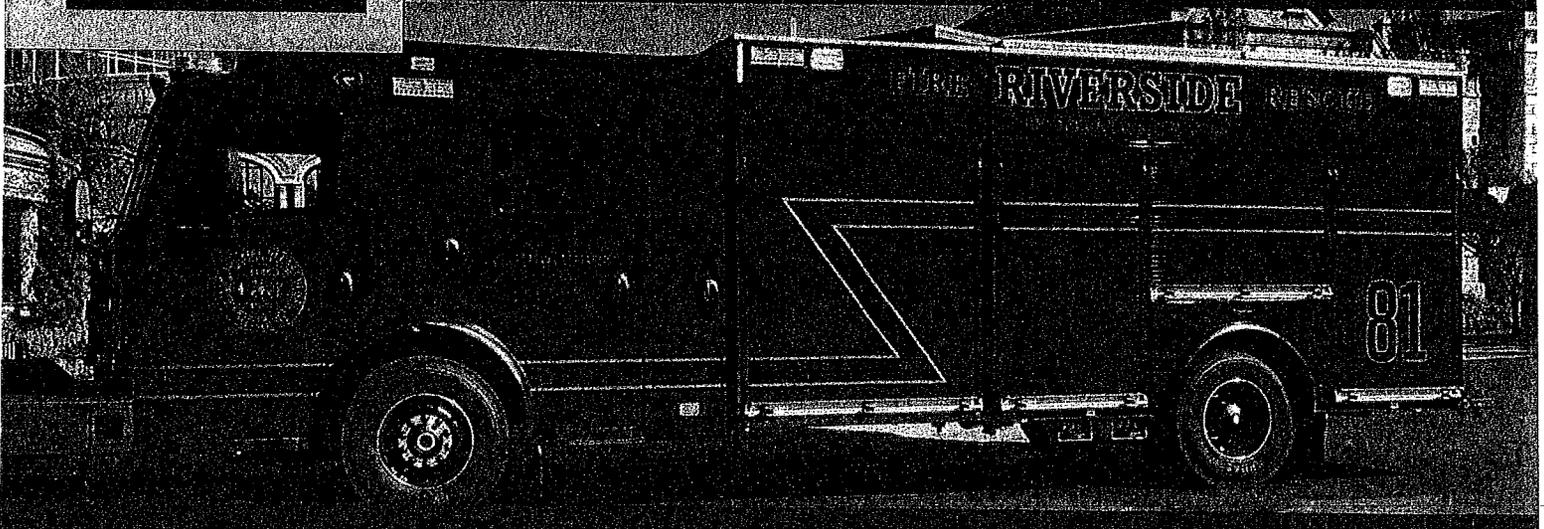
Mayor Schofield adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 09/10/2025



RIVERSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE



Saturday, October 4th, 2025 | 8am - Noon

Riverside Fire Dept. | 2990 NW Union Rd, Riverside, MO 64150

- Learn about Fire Safety
- See our vehicles and apparatus your fire and police use every day
- Bicycle Safety Rodeo! Participate and receive a free bike helmet

** While Supplies last*

Chance to win a
FREE BIKE!

Chris Cakes
Fastest



Flapjack Flippers

Breakfast Provided by Chris Cakes

ARCO

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION-KC

Thank you very much to our Generous Sponsor

⚡ HOUSTON LAKE ⚡

CHILI COOK-OFF & POTLUCK

Judging at
12noon

NOVEMBER 1ST 2025

Lunch at 12:30
Bingo at 2pm

Hot Prizes for the best chili!

Join the City Council & the Venetian Gardens Homes Association for a
Chili Contest and Community Potluck.

Register early for the Chili Contest to receive details on entry &
reimbursement of ingredients.

AND

Garage Sale Bingo is BACK!!

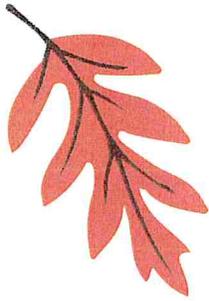
Time to bring in your best worst item you have been storing away.

Play some Bingo and go home with a new treasure.

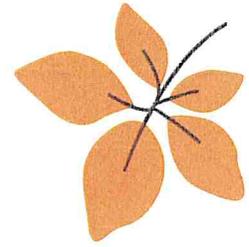
Register by emailing city-council@houstonlake.gov



**REGISTER
EARLY
LIMITED SPOTS
AVAILABLE**



Fall



BRUSH PICK-UP

The City of Houston Lake has scheduled a Fall Brush Pick-Up with Crawford Climbers. This will take place on

Thursday, November 13th

Residents can start clearing and cutting now, as long as the brush/trees/limbs are kept in a neat and tidy pile near the street, with the following guidelines:

Limbs & logs less than 10 inches in diameter to fit through the chipper. Do not tie them together and keep the lengths short enough so that they do not reach into the streets. Any shifting or movement of the brush/ limbs/ logs needs to be maintained by the resident. **PLEASE** keep the streets clear. Leaves placed in biodegradable bags will be collected again. Keep these in an area that will stay dry until the pick-up date so that the bags do not break open when they are picked up or moved.

Additionally, they will be clearing overhanging limbs from the streets during this time. If you have trees on your property that require attention, we recommend contacting a professional soon for the most affordable pricing and to get on their schedule.

The City cannot recommend or endorse any company. Ask your neighbors who they recommend. The following have done work for residents:

Crawford Climbers - Gary Crawford 816-935-0186

Whitley Wood & Tree Service - Luke Whitley 816-468-8733

Tree & Home Services - Jason Lindsey 816-291-2130 or 816-835-5486

