



Houston Laker
Since March 1957 – Edition 69
April 2026 issue



COMMUNITY LINK RESTORED!

Houston Lake Advances Long-Awaited Bridge Repair Project



This is what the new railing on the bridge will look like when done.

Bridge Repair Project

Residents of Houston Lake have something new to look forward to this year as the City has been awarded a \$50,000 grant through the Platte County Parks and Recreation Department Outreach Grant Program to rebuild the bridge. The City is providing the additional \$47,000 needed to complete the project. Several residents, local organizations, and especially the Venetian Gardens Homes Association, offered letters of support for the application and we believe these were a crucial aspect of our receiving the grant!

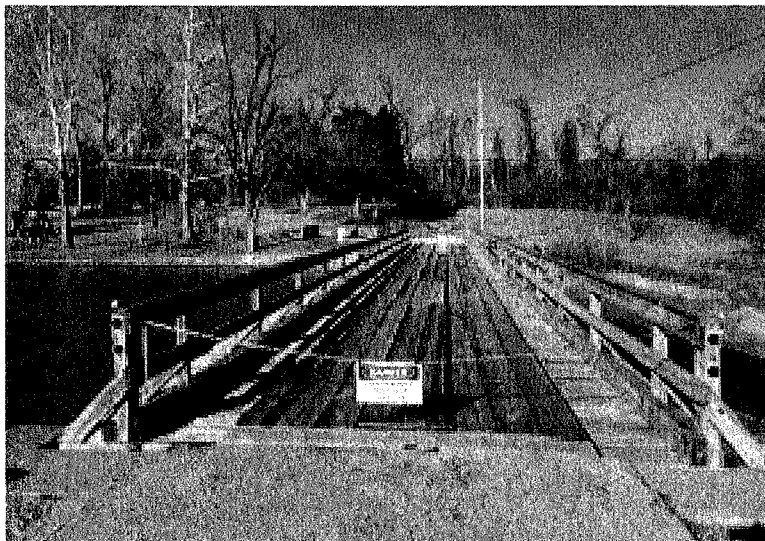
The project will replace the aging and deteriorating bridge with a safe, modern pedestrian structure designed to improve accessibility and encourage outdoor activity for residents of all ages. Once completed, the new bridge will provide a reliable connection for walkers, families, and outdoor enthusiasts, enhancing access to the City's recreational spaces.

City officials say the project aligns closely with the goals of the county's Outreach Grant Program, which prioritizes capital improvements that expand recreational opportunities and improve quality of life for residents across the region. According to program guidelines, funded projects must be open to the public and designed for long-term community benefits which are standards this bridge project clearly meets.

"This investment is about more than infrastructure," a City representative noted. "It's about strengthening community connections and making our town safer and more enjoyable for everyone."

The pedestrian bridge is expected to serve as a vital link within the community, supporting walking, casual recreation, and neighborhood connectivity. It also reflects the broader vision of maintaining and improving public spaces in a way that benefits current residents while supporting future growth.

Construction is expected to move forward following final approvals and project coordination, with completion targeted before the end of summer this year.



Residents are encouraged to stay tuned for updates as the project progresses and to take pride in an improvement that reflects Houston Lake's continued commitment to community, accessibility, and quality of life.

Letter from the Mayor

Let's talk about something no one really *loves* talking about... property taxes. (I know—fun topic, right?)

If you recently received a letter showing a **15% increase** in your property valuation, don't panic—and definitely don't toss it aside. Take a look at the date on the letter. There's a **30-day window** to request a reassessment if you believe something doesn't look right.

Property taxes may take a little sparkle out of homeownership, but they are what keep our city running. The taxes paid by Houston Lake residents fund important services like infrastructure upkeep, park maintenance, mowing, snow removal, and more. Quite simply, the City of Houston Lake couldn't operate without them.

That said, we absolutely want your taxes to be **fair and accurate**. If you're curious about how your property is listed, you can look it up through the **Platte County Missouri Collector** website - <https://www.co.platte.mo.us/collector> - and review the details the assessor's office has on file. You may be surprised by what you find.

Speaking from experience, I took the time to review my own assessment and discovered a few things that needed correcting—such as livable space, square footage, and even items that were being taxed as real property when they shouldn't have been. I requested a reassessment, and later an in-person review. The assessor's office came out, took photos, listened carefully, and ultimately adjusted my valuation to a more reasonable amount. It didn't make my taxes disappear (wouldn't that be nice?), but it did lower them a bit.

If you're a senior resident, you may also want to check whether you qualify for the **Senior Citizens Tax Credit** through Platte County Missouri. This program can offer meaningful relief for those who are eligible, and it's well worth a look. **Senior Citizens Tax Credit Platte County Missouri** - <https://www.co.platte.mo.us/tax-credit>

And remember—you don't have to figure this all out on your own. If you have questions, need help reviewing your tax statement, or just want someone to walk you through the process, feel free to reach out. You can email me directly at mayor@houstonlake.gov, and I'll be happy to assist or connect you with someone who can help.

Taxes may not be fun, but understanding them can make them a little less painful. Thank you for being engaged, informed, and supportive of our wonderful community.

Sarah Schofield
Mayor of Houston Lake

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

Mayor Pro Tem - Sarah Loring
sloring@houstonlake.gov

Jesse Beshears
jbeshears@houstonlake.gov

Teresa Olson
tolson@houstonlake.gov

Jennifer Heese
jheese@houstonlake.gov

As most of the City Officials and VGHA 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/Treasurer/Lake Tags -
Don Miller = (918) 633-4109
drmillers5@icloud.com

Secretary – Monica Beshears
(573) 356-4118
weety30@gmail.com

Board Member at Large – Mary Head
(816) 741-5639
maryjewel40@gmail.com

Board Member at Large – Josh Williams
(816) 560-6433
jwil6872@gmail.com

Houston Laker Newspaper Editor
Mary Head – 816-741-5639
maryjewel40@gmail.com

**In case of a Police, Fire, or Medical
Emergency – Call 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**

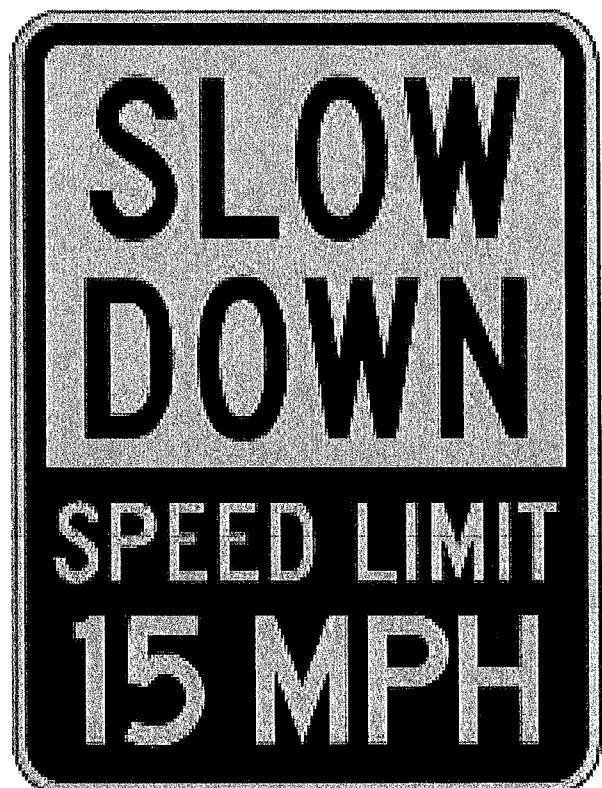
**NO
PARKING
ON
STREET**

**There is no parking
on the streets
throughout
Houston Lake.**

**Public parking is
available on the gravel
lot next to
Houston Lake's
City Hall.**

**Reminder: Houston
Lake's speed limit,
throughout the entire
city, is 15 miles per
hour. For everyone's
safety,**

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!



Question #1 - On The April 7, 2026 Ballot

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

You will be asked to approve or oppose this question.

History of this Question Appearing on the Ballot

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

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

It was further explained to Council, before placing a Use Tax question on the ballot for residents to consider - a **Sales Tax** would need to be established. On April 7, you will be asked to vote on a 1% Sales Tax for Houston Lake. Since Houston Lake has never had a Sales Tax, an affirmative vote would establish that tax - which would pave the way for a Use Tax vote later this year.

Both a Houston Lake Sales Tax, and a Use Tax, would benefit our community directly.

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

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Aldermen Appearing on the April 7, 2026 Ballot

The two aldermen that appear on the ballot are:

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

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

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

(A Sample Ballot is Included Separately in this Month's Houston Laker)

General Municipal Election - April 7, 2026

In-Person Voting Location for Houston Lake Residents is:

**Hills of Walden Clubhouse
5858 North Polk Drive
Kansas City, Missouri 64151**

**OPEN between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM on
Election Day**

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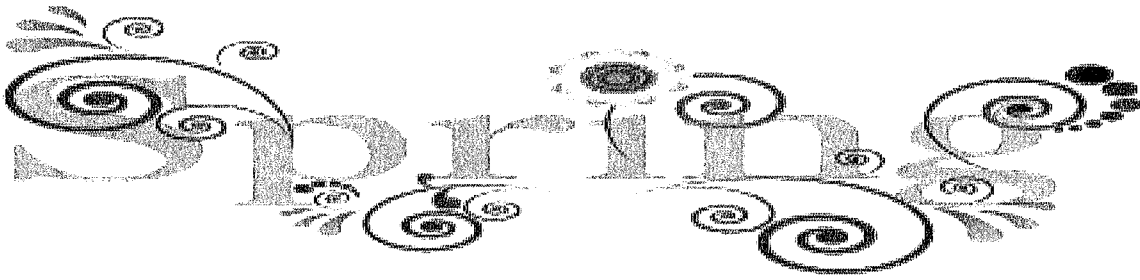


**2025-2026 Budget Amendments
City of Houston Lake**

At the March 11, 2026 City Council Meeting, an insurance invoice, in the amount of \$1,568 was presented for payment. At that time, \$21 remained in the Insurance line item of the 2025-2026 budget. The City Council approved the following amendments to the 2025-2026 budget in order to pay the invoice.

City Rental (\$250 received but not budgeted)	\$250
Reduce Gifts/Awards/Donations by \$250	\$250
Reduce Property/Park Maintenance by \$1,050	<u>\$1,050</u>
TOTAL	\$1,550

Approved March 11, 2026



Dear Houston Lake Residents,

It's Spring Cleaning time! After this long cold winter, and we all come outside and enjoy this beautiful weather, this is a really good time to take a good hard look at the outside of our homes.

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

Basically, the Rubbish, Garbage, and Junk Ordinance regards anything 'stored' outside needs to be outdoor items such as: grills, outdoor furniture, toys, bicycles, and other items that are deemed for outdoor use. These items should be stored in a neat and orderly manner.

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

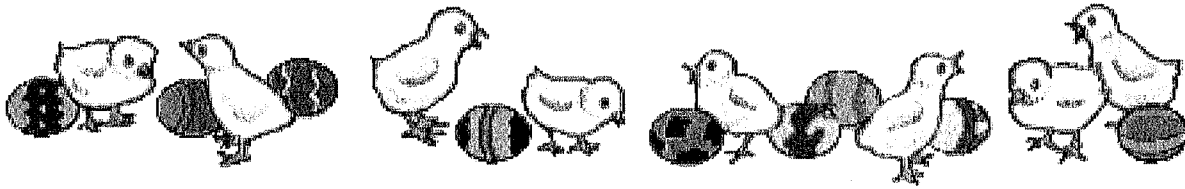
The Rubbish, Garbage, and Junk Ordinance also includes brush, firewood not being stored properly, and tree branches.

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

Yes, of course, you can change your oil (including proper disposal of the used oil), do minor repairs, and general maintenance on your vehicle.

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

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



Section 235.80. Rubbish, Garbage, and Junk.

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

Section 235.060 G: Motor Vehicles:

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

Section 230.030. Collection of Solid Waste.

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

Section 215.110. Weeds, High Grass or Other Vegetation.

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

The Code Enforcement officer of other City Official as designated by the City shall give a hearing after ten (10) days' notice thereof either personally or by United States mail to the owner or owners, or his/her or their agents, or by posting such notice on the premises; thereupon, the Code Enforcement officer may declare the weeds, high grass or other vegetation to be a nuisance and order the same to be abated within five (5) days.

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

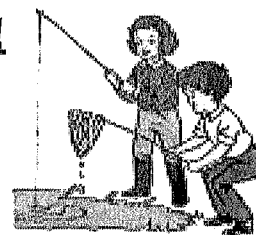
Wednesday April 15 - Venetian Gardens Homes Association
Semi-Annual Meeting 6:30pm - City Hall

Members who have paid their annual dues can pick up 2026 wristbands from 6:00pm to 6:30pm at City Hall just before the meeting from Don Miller.

The Board of Directors Welcome and Encourage All Members to Attend.

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Don't Forget Your Missouri Fishing License
and a Houston Lake "2026 Wristband" when fishing!!



Lake Residents from the age of 16 through 64 need a Missouri Fishing License and a Houston Lake 2026 Wristband in order to fish in Houston Lake. Residents 65 and over need only a 2026 Wristband. There is No Fishing allowed in the Beach Area.

To get your 2026 Wristbands, call VGHA Treasurer, Don Miller at 918-633-4109 or email him at drmiller5@icloud.com. The Wristbands are FREE if your VGHA dues are paid. Residents and their Guests must have the 2026 Wristband with them when they are on or around the lake and on VGHA property.

No trout lines, jug lines, seine net, gillnetting, or unattended fishing lines. No FISHING anywhere beyond the gate at the swim beach.

2026 TRASH & RECYCLING

DATES

City Trash and Recycling Service are handled by Republic Services. For assistance with your receptacles, issues with pick-up, or questions about large items contact customer service at 816-254-1470 or republicservices.com.

One Trash bin and **one** Recycling bin is picked up every Thursday. (If you require more than one trash bin and/or more than one recycling bin, you need to contact Republic Services directly at 816-254-1470 to set up any additional service you require for your residence.)

They need to be at the curb/edge of street by 6am. Place carts 1 foot from the curb/edge of the street. Leave room for the arm of the truck to pick up and return the receptacles without causing damage to vehicles, fences, etc. **Place the cart at least 5 feet from any object – like a car, tree, pole, fire hydrant, mailbox, electrical box, or cable box – so the automated arm can reach your cart.**

Trash & Recycling pickup is every Thursday.

Please maintain this same distance of 5 feet between recycling and waste carts.

Remember only one of each bin is allowed.

A \$10.00 charge per bin, per month, if you need additional bins.

2026 Holidays:

May 25 Memorial Day –
Pick up Changed to
Friday May 29.

July 4 Independence Day –
No Change pick up will be on
Thursday July 2.

September 7 Labor Day –
Pick up changed to
Friday September 11.

November 26 Thanksgiving
Day - Pick up changed to
Friday November 27.

December 25 Christmas Day –
No Change pickup will be on
Thursday December 24.

Lake Life

April 2026 Events

Trash and Recycling pick up change to Thursday

5 – Happy Easter

**7 – Tuesday - General
Municipal Election Day.**

Houston Lake Residents
vote at Hills of Walden
Clubhouse, 5858 North Polk
Drive, Kansas City, Missouri
64151. Open between 6am
and 7pm. on Election Day.

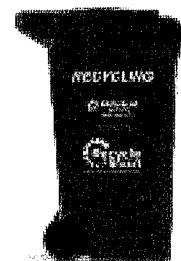
7 – Tuesday Brush Pick-up

**8 – Wednesday - City of
Houston Lake Meeting –
City Hall 6:30pm.**
VGHA Treasurer Don Miller will
be distributing 2026 Lake
Wristbands from 6pm to
6:30pm.

**9 – Thursday Trash and
Recycling Day**

**15 – Wednesday -VGHA Semi-
Annual meeting - 6:30pm City
Hall. VGHA Treasurer Don
Miller will be distributing 2026
Lake Wristbands from 6pm to
6:30pm.**

Our Trash and Recycling service pick up day is changing to Thursday beginning **THURSDAY APRIL 9, 2026.**



Blue or black lids are Trash Carts (and may say "Trash" on the lid)

Yellow, Green, or Light Blue lids are Recycle Carts (and may say "Recycle" on the lid)

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Attention Cat and Dog Owners, Proof of Vaccinations Due May 1, 2026. The owner or keeper of any dog or cat in the City of Houston Lake is required to have such animals vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian and to produce/present a certificate of the vaccination from the veterinarian to the City Clerk on or before **May 1** of each year. The City Clerk shall register each certificate, and each registration will remain in force until the following **April 30**. It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any dog or cat to permit such animal to remain in the City of Houston Lake unless vaccinated as above provided. (Section 205.020: Vaccination)

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CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!

The Process

- 1 - **Notify Missouri 811** - to request a 'utility locate' online, or by phone, at 811 at least three full working days prior to excavation.
- 2 - **Utilities Are Notified** - Missouri 811 will notify any public utility companies within your dig site while you wait the required time.
- 3 - **Utilities Mark Their Lines** - the utilities will locate and mark their lines, or provide an all clear notification.
- 4 - **Confirm The Marks** - you confirm the marks and utility statuses.
- 5 - **Dig With Care!**

Animal Regulations

Regarding animals, part of the City of Houston Lake City Codes state the following:

Section 205.040. Vicious Dogs Prohibited — Exceptions.

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

1. Leash and muzzle. No person shall permit a vicious dog to go outside its kennel or pen unless such dog is securely leashed with a leash no longer than four (4) feet in length. No person shall permit a vicious dog to be kept on a chain, rope or other type of leash outside its kennel or pen unless a person is in physical control of the leash. Such dogs may not be leashed to inanimate objects such as trees, posts or buildings. In addition, all vicious dogs on a leash outside its kennel or pen must be muzzled by a muzzling device sufficient to prevent such dog from biting persons or other animals.
2. Confinement. All vicious dogs shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel, except when leashed and muzzled as above provided. Such pen, kennel or structure must have secure sides and a secure top attached to the sides. All structures used to confine vicious dogs must be locked with a key or combination lock when such dogs are within the structure. Said structure must have a secure bottom or floor attached to the sides of the pen or the sides of the pen must be imbedded in the ground no less than two (2) feet. Also, such structures must be adequately lighted and ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
3. Confinement indoors. No vicious dog may be kept on a porch, patio or any part of a house or structure that would allow the dog to exit such building on its own volition. In addition, no such animal may be kept in a house or structure when the windows are open or when screen windows or screen doors are the only obstacle preventing the dog from exiting the structure.
4. Signs. All owners, keepers or harborers of vicious dogs within the City shall display in a prominent place on their premises a sign easily readable by the public using the words "Beware of Dog". In addition, a similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of such dog.

The Animal Regulations Code in its entirety can be found on Houston Lake's website and/or requested by contacting the cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

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



City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, the 18th day of February, 2026

Location: Houston Lake City Hall, 5417 N Adrian, Houston Lake, MO 64151-3389

The regular meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, originally scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, was rescheduled, by Notice, to Wednesday, February 18, 2026, due to scheduling conflicts, 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, February 18, 2026 at 6:31 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Schofield.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Loring moved to approve the 01/26/26 City Council Meeting minutes. Olson 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Riverside Fire Department Report - Keith Payne, Assistant Fire Chief, submitted his written report regarding four areas in Houston Lake with low hanging utility lines that should be addressed. He reviewed Johnson Trail (a gravel road in Houston Lake) and indicated the pumper truck could not utilize that road unless the road is completely redone. It needs to be widened to 20' and covered with asphalt. Pumper truck weight is 80,000 lbs. The new ladder truck weight is 85,000 lbs. He does not believe there were any calls in January.

Platte Co Sheriff's Department Report- Sgt Justin Hanway reported four calls for service in January for a total of 43.10 hours: 1 abandoned auto, 2 parking complaints, and 1 suspicious person-vehicle. Council asked again about the data from the speed scanner machine that was located on Adrian last summer. They are still waiting on the cord needed to obtain the data.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mary Head asked about an update on the spillway. Nothing new at this time, MoDOT has not gotten back to us. Mary asked about spring city brush pickup - not scheduled yet. Loring asked about parking tickets for those parking on the street. Council let Sgt Hanway know they would like cars, parked on the City's streets, to be ticketed per the City's codes.

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (VGHA) REPORT

Mary Head mentioned the VGHA plans to have lake cleanup "days" all during March - a report will be included in the March Houston Laker. She reported no public VGHA meeting in March.

The next public VGHA meeting will be April 15. The deadline to submit news of any kind for the March edition of the Houston Laker is February 25, 2026.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports dated 01/31/26 were reviewed and accepted as presented. Preliminary Review of 2026-2027 Budget - a worksheet was presented and there was some initial discussion. The Council was encouraged to think about projects the city needs to budget in 2026-2027 and report. The public was asked to share their ideas. Grinder Pump Fund - Update - with the anticipation of \$19,200 currently being received with all taxes collected by Platte Co, the current balance in the Grinder Pump fund will be \$22,788.06. If this holds steady, it is likely the \$17,133, borrowed from the General Fund earlier this year to pay grinder pump expenses, can be repaid by the end of this fiscal year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Residential Backyard Hens Ordinance - Shepard read the title of Bill #021826 twice "An Ordinance Creating Section 205.160, Backyard Hens Ordinance". Discussion regarding the possible need to consult with the City's attorney to see if Chapter 215, Article I, Section 215.010 A (13) of the City's Code needs to be rescinded as it pertains to the keeping of fowl within the City. It was noted the Ordinance would lift the City's restrictions regarding the keeping of Backyard Hens in the City of Houston Lake. However, it does not impact the restrictions the Venetian Gardens Homes Association has in its Restrictions regarding the same. **Beshears moved to approve Bill #021826 Backyard Hens Ordinance. Heese 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.** Mayor Schofield noted it is now a law that the City allows Backyard Hens. However, this cannot be acted upon by residents, at this time, because of the VGHA restrictions regarding fowl in the City. These restrictions are currently backed by the State of Missouri. Regarding the Residential Backyard Hens Application - several minor corrections to the application were recommended. It was suggested to Mary Head, Houston Laker Editor, that an article be included in the Houston Laker about the passing of the City's ordinance (noting the restrictions the VGHA has in place). Pam Freese, VGHA President, should be consulted on this proposed article. Sales Tax - the April 2026 sample ballot, which includes the proposed Sales Tax question, was available to all present. Discussion. It was explained the sales tax would be charged if products are sold within the City and if residents purchase cars. Ultimately, the City would like to have a Use Tax. A Sales Tax is required first before a Use Tax can be considered. The Use Tax is for items ordered to be delivered to a home in Houston Lake. The City would like to eventually have the Use Tax in place in order to garner revenue for the upkeep of the City's streets traversed by large trucks such as Amazon. Shepard is attempting to learn if the USPS can assign a zip code specifically to Houston Lake since, many times, 64151 defaults to Kansas City. Repurpose of City Owned Property - we would like to have volunteers to help clear the vines off of city owned property. Please contact the City to learn where this work can be accomplished. Utilities are working throughout the City identifying trees that need to be cut back. The cutting back has not started back.

NEW BUSINESS - none

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

Shepard presented Platte Wood's one page building permit as an example of how our permit might be simplified. She reminded Council of the upcoming March 7 KC Lakes meeting. She

asked for assistance in bringing the old police office desk up from the basement for the City Clerk's office. She thanked Beshears for his presentation to the Platte County Parks and Recreation Commission.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Beshears let those in attendance know about the recent presentation to the Platte County Parks and Recreation Commission regarding our grant request for \$50,000 to update the bridge. We should learn if it is approved in mid-March. Olson thanked Beshears and Shepard for their work on the grant application. She reported recently repairing a sign on Adrian. Heese - Mayor Schofield thanked Heese and Johnny Nava for taking down the holiday decorations throughout the City. Loring thanked all for the flexibility in this month's meeting date. She thanked everyone who supported Beshears presentation to the Commission regarding our grant. There continues to be work on gathering information for a Short Term Rental agreement. She needs chicken wire to protect trees throughout the City.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Schofield reported meeting with the City's attorney to learn how she works with Houston Lake. She is working with Platte County mayors on collaborative efforts. She wants to start working on ditches throughout the City to get them cleaned out. She indicated Beshears did a phenomenal job of writing and presenting the grant, and thanked those who came to the meeting to show support. She mentioned that 2026 is the 250th anniversary of the country and she would like to especially celebrate with a city-wide event sometime between Memorial Day and after the 4th of July. Perhaps a summer games event, kayak races, etc. Beshears asked about gravel needs in the City. We should obtain measurements for these needs. Only public parking in the City is on the gravel lot at City Hall.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 03/11/2026

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

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

Follow the City on Facebook: **Houston Lake, Mo**

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

Current and past issues of the Houston Laker:

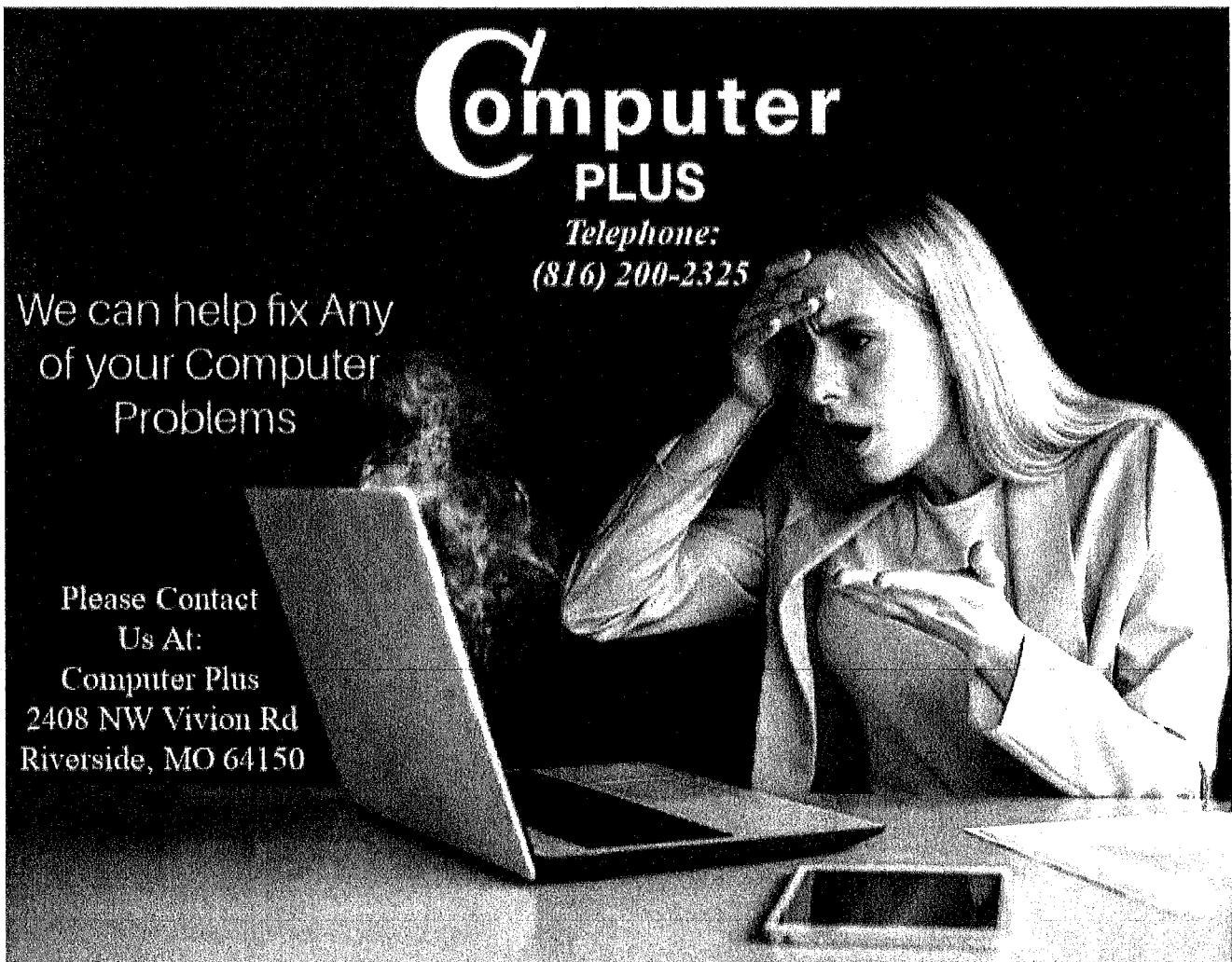
www.houstonlake.gov then select **Houston Laker**

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

Follow the VGHA on Facebook: **Venetian Gardens Homes Association**

Contact the VGHA at: **pamelafreese@gmail.com**

* * * * *



**Computer
PLUS**

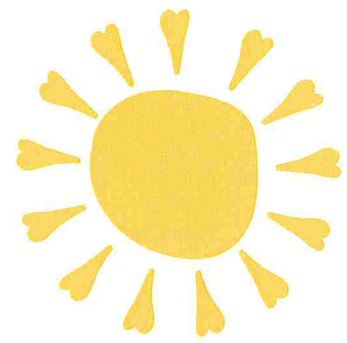
Telephone:
(816) 200-2325

We can help fix Any
of your Computer
Problems

Please Contact
Us At:
Computer Plus
2408 NW Vivion Rd
Riverside, MO 64150



Spring



BRUSH PICK-UP

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

**DATE
CHANGE**

Tuesday, April 7th

**DATE
CHANGE**

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. - **CHECK FOR METAL** such as nails, screws and wire from yard decorations - **NO LUMBER** will be picked up.

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 of Houston Lake has scheduled a Spring Brush Pick-Up to follow the March Lake Cleanup. Get out there and help when and where you can! Contact VGHA for more information.