



HOUSTON LAKER

Since March 1957 – Edition 69

July 2026 issue

*Happy
Birthday
America*



Happy 4th of July

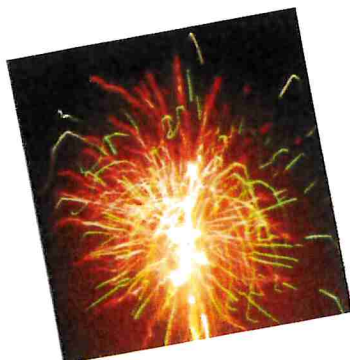
Celebrating!!!

250th Anniversary of America

80th Anniversary of the
Venetian Gardens Homes Association

65th Anniversary of the
City of Houston Lake

4th of July Parties
July 3rd and July 4, 2026
VGHA & City of Houston Lake



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:

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

July 2026 Events

Trash and Recycling pick up change to Thursday

3 - Friday, Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the VGHA. 5pm – Bingo, potluck, & activities at City Hall.

4 – Saturday, Picnic. Beginning 9am, Community Events at the Mayors Park, yard games at City Hall and at 12 Noon Burgers and Hotdogs.

8 – Wednesday - City of Houston Lake Meeting – City Hall 6:30pm.

11 – Saturday – VGHA Special and Regular meeting - 1:00pm City Hall.

24 – Friday Houston Laker Articles/pictures Deadline

August 4 – Tuesday - Primary Election at Hills of Walden Clubhouse, 5858 N. Polk Drive, K.C. Mo. 64151. Open between 6am to 7pm on Election Day.

August 8 - Saturday Art Circle 2-4 pm deliver/collect art, City Hall.

August 15 – Saturday Art Circle, 2-4 pm Open house to view the new works, City Hall.



Personal Fireworks Displays in Houston Lake



Section 210.680 of the Houston Lake

Municipal Code states:

It shall be unlawful for any person to use or discharge any "bottle rockets".

It shall be unlawful for any person to use, ignite or discharge any fireworks within the public right of way of any public street.

Fireworks may only be used, ignited or discharged at the following times and dates:

1. From 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. each day during the period of June twenty-sixth (26) until July second (2nd) and on July fifth (5th).
2. From 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. (midnight) each day on July third (3rd) and July fourth (4th).

No person shall have in his/her possession Division 1.3 (formerly class "B") fireworks.

Division 1.4 (formerly class "C") fireworks may be possessed during periods herein provided.

DISCHARGING AIR GUN, ETC.

Any person within the limits of this City who shall discharge any BB gun, spring gun, paint gun or air gun or shall shoot any pebble, bullet, slug, arrow or other hard substance by means of a sling, crossbow, rubber band or bow or any other means shall be deemed guilty of an ordinance violation; provided however, that this Section shall not apply to any person or organization authorized by the City of Houston Lake to possess and discharge such devices

for the purpose of waterfowl pest control.
(Ord. No. 303, 9-12-05 (Section 210.285))





Happy Independence Day!

The Board has called a special meeting for Saturday, July 11, at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on canceling the dredging project scheduled for late summer and reallocating those funds toward repairs to the spillway, which was damaged during recent storms.

To approve this action, we must have a quorum of 15 homeowners present, and the measure must pass by a two-thirds majority vote.

For those who may not be aware of the situation, approximately the bottom six feet of the spillway broke apart and washed out during a period of heavy rainfall earlier this summer. Don, Sarah Schofield, Jess, Monica, and I have been working together to address the issue and have involved Platte County in discussions with MoDOT. We are actively pursuing expedited repairs and exploring potential financial assistance from MoDOT and possibly the county.

There are many moving parts to this project and, because I will be undergoing another surgery, Don will serve as the primary point of contact moving forward.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Don or me.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe Fourth of July. The HOA will be hosting a pasta and sauce dinner on July 3 at City Hall, and the City has several great events planned for July 4.

Kindly,

Pam Freese

VENETIAN
GARDENS
HOMES
ASSOCIATION

**SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OF THE VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION**

**Saturday, July 11, 2026, 1:00 PM
City Hall, 5417 N Adrian Ave, Houston Lake, MO 64151**

The Venetian Gardens Homes Association Board of Directors invites you to attend a special meeting of the Members of the association. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the following proposal:

“Should the Members of the Venetian Gardens Homes Association rescind the prior approval for a major expenditure of \$99,000 to dredge a channel in the lake and instead authorize the Board to utilize that \$99,000 to begin repairs on the spillway which has been damaged by recent storms.”

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 VGHA 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 drmiller5@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 July 11, 2026 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 GARDEN HOMES ASSOCIATION

5417 N ADRIAN AVE | HOUSTON LAKE, MO | 64151 | www.vgha.community

The VGHA Work Meeting on 05/04/2026



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

Absent: Josh Williams

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Pam Freese at 6:31 pm

Approval of Previous Minutes: The meeting minutes from 4/15/2026 were discussed and approved.

Key Decisions & Policy Changes

- **Short-Term Rental (STR) Restrictions:** Approved new, restrictive language. STR occupants are strictly banned from accessing the private lake (no boating, swimming, fishing, or use of the swim beach) and will not receive wristbands. STR owners must prominently post these restrictions inside their properties.
 - **STR Invoicing:** Established a standard STR dues due date of January 1st for city-approved rentals. Invoices will be mailed out every October.
 - **Financial Approvals:** Approved the immediate payment of a \$600 mowing invoice and \$1,352.97 in outstanding city invoices (covering copier services and supplies dating back to August 2025)
-

Project Updates & Operations

- **Tree Removal:** Attempted a DIY removal of a fallen tree at Kerry Hallowell's property but aborted due to safety and accessibility hazards. The board will pivot to professional contractors.
- **Lake Operations:** Pamela will pick up the HOA debit card from City Hall to buy aquatic plants for a planting session this Saturday. The board is actively searching for a volunteer to replace Levy for weekend lake testing/maintenance.
- **Tributary Cleanup:** Acknowledged volunteer efforts to catch debris before it enters the lake. The board will discuss potential structural solutions (like trash nets) with city reps.
- **May 18th Joint Meeting:** Discuss lake cleanup findings, tributary trash nets, and debris control solutions with Lisa Shepard and Jennifer Heese, city representatives.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:45 pm

Venetian Garden Home Association Public Meeting

Date: May 18, 2026 | Time: 6:31 pm - 7:35 pm



Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Pam Freese at 6:31 pm

- **Attendees:** President Pam Freese, Don Miller, Mary Head, Monica Beshears
- **Absent:** Josh Williams
- **Approval of Previous Minutes:** The meeting minutes from 05/04/26 were discussed and corrections to be made before being approved.

Officer & Committee Reports

- **Financials (Don):** The HOA has \$131,616.00 in cash (\$124,000.00 in a Money Market Fund with interest). Accounts receivable (membership) total \$36,000. Accounts payable are \$2,097.02, which includes \$1,352 owed to the city of Houston Lake. Current profit is \$24,230.
- **Swim Beach Tree Removal:** Discussed an email from Don Coronado and Katherine Kreider regarding a dead HOA tree outside the Swim Beach park fence. Evergy (formerly KCP&L) is willing to chop it down at no cost, and Dan/Catherine has agreed to remove the wood. The board passed a motion for Pam to follow up with them, pending a letter of approval from the HOA.
- **Aquatic Plants:** Plants have been purchased. Pam planted half of the silt pond, the tributary on Venetian Circle, and the park behind Venetian Drive, the remainder will be planted in the other tributaries.

Old & New Business

- **Spillway & Dam Update:** The bottom piece of the spillway broke clean across and is now in the 635 drainage ditch. The HOA is getting cost estimates from three different engineers to conduct a professional study. Pam, Don, and Sarah are coordinating with the city regarding the area behind the spillway to explore avenues for a temporary fix.
- **Dredging:** Dredging of the lake is temporarily on hold so the HOA can focus on the spillway.
- **Engineer Meeting:** Pam and Don are scheduled to meet with another engineer Tuesday, 19May2026at 1:30 to get their professional opinion and discuss options.
- **Dock Maintenance & Trash:** The HOA is looking for someone to take care of the docks and empty the trash at the beach once a week on Fridays, in exchange for a small amount of compensation.
- **Weather Watch Group:** Pam is looking to organize a volunteer group that would automatically check HOA areas and the section under the walking bridge during heavy rains to clear any potential debris coming from upstream.

Adjournment

- **Next Meeting:** Wednesday June 3, 2026 at 6:30 pm.
- **Meeting Adjourned:** 7:35 pm.

Minutes approve June 15, 2026



City Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, the 8th day of April, 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, was called to order by Mayor Sarah Schofield on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6:33 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

Olson moved to approve the 03/11/26 City Council Meeting minutes as corrected. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval as corrected.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Riverside Fire Department Report - Keith Payne, Assistant Fire Chief, commended City on getting utility wires lifted in order to give access to their pumper truck.

Platte Co Sheriff's Department Report- Sgt Jessica Duda reported ten calls for service in March for a total of 34 hours: 1 careless and imprudent, 1 welfare check, 1 disturbance, 1 parking complaint, 1 receive information, 3 suspicious person-vehicle, and 2 traffic stops.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Don Miller asked about an update from MODot on the spillway. Nothing new yet since they are focused on cleaning up the highways for the World Cup at this time. Heese and Shepard have separately reached out to MODot regarding highway noise in the City.

VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION (VGHA) REPORT

Mary Head reported the next public VGHA meeting will be Wednesday April 15 at 6:30 PM (their semi-annual meeting). Treasurer Miller has wrist bans for all those who have paid their dues and is also continuing to collect dues. The deadline to submit news of any kind for the May edition of the Houston Laker is April 25, 2026.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Reports dated 03/31/26 were reviewed and accepted as presented. Mayor Schofield announced the receipt of bids for asphalt for Edgewater and Johnson Trail. Edgewater bid - \$28,730; Johnson Trail bid - \$25,600. Discussion. Olson moved to pull \$23,358.14 from the Transportation Sales Tax Receipts account with Platte County and place in the City's Road Fund account. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. This will need to be accomplished by following Platte County's procedure which was not known at the meeting. Approve Transfer

of \$50,000 from General Fund Reserve - It was learned today that Platte County will, incrementally, pay the grant funds awarded for the bridge, during the bridge project, as long as receipts are submitted. Loring moved to approve funds to be transferred from the General Fund Reserve at MOSIP to the General Fund, as needed, to pay the expense of the bridge. Olson 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval. This was to ensure funding was available to pay the initial payment(s) for the bridge while waiting for the reimbursement from Platte County. Grinder Pump Fund - Update - no additional expenses incurred for grinder pumps at this time. We are still on track to return the \$17,133, borrowed from the General Fund earlier this year, to the General Fund by the end of this fiscal year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sales Tax Outcome - 1% Sales Tax was approved on the April ballot - 71% to 29%. Mayor Schofield reported Beshears and Loring were reelected as Aldermen and thanked them for their continued service. Shepard reported a form now needs to be submitted to the MO Dept of Revenue in order to begin the process, with them, of implementing the new sales tax.

Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance - Discussion regarding the process for application/implementation of STRs. Shepard read the title of the ordinance twice - Bill No. 040826 - "An Ordinance Creating Chapter 420: Restrictions on Short-Term Rentals". Loring - Aye; Olson - Aye; Heese - Aye; and Beshears - Aye. A roll call vote resulted in the passage of the ordinance. The information on how to apply will be disseminated as quickly as possible to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Bridge Update - Beshears reported we did receive the \$50,000 grant from Platte County to go toward the bridge. A meeting with the builder of the bridge will take place Friday, May 10 about 12:30 PM. Bollards were discussed. The color of the bridge will be discussed with the builder. Part of the bridge proposal is \$2,000 for old board disposal from the bridge. Beshears would like to offer these boards to residents. Ideas for use of the old boards were discussed. Olson requested the bridge builder be asked to install flag holders on the bridge.

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

Shepard - thanked Kenny Jarrell for removal of honeysuckle throughout the City. She quoted Jarrell - "I hate honeysuckle." Shepard received a notice to file the final report on the Covid Funds we received several years ago by April 30 which she will accomplish. She asked if the other bridges in the City (the concrete bridges) can be painted? Ideas were discussed. reminded council about an upcoming City Officials training opportunity. She and Heese recently attended a KC Lakes meeting - it is more geared to VGHA so they hope to report to the VGHA board at the next opportunity.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Beshears thanked the community for all the work on the honeysuckle. He commended Crawford Climbers for their recent brush pickup work. Olson thanked Crawford Climbers. She thanked Kenny Jarrell. She thanked Schofield and Shepard for work behind the scenes on the STR process. She thanked Beshears for his work on the bridge. Loring also thanked Kenny Jarrell. Thanked all the voters in the April election. She thanked for wire mesh donations and indicated she would contact VGHA about putting wire mesh around trees to protect from beavers, deer, etc. Heese thanked Loring for work on sales tax. She thanked Beshears for his

work on the bridge.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Schofield thanked all who came out to vote. She indicated 38 people from HL voted in April, compared to the last general election at which 12 voted. More people are engaged in what the City is trying to accomplish. Thanked Council and residents for getting the word out about the Sales Tax. Parkhill School District voted in three new board members. Platte County passed the Homestead Tax Credit. She wants to get back to maintaining culverts and ditches. She wants to reconvene the Planning and Zoning Board. She would like a notice in the Houston Laker about reconvening the PZC. They will be reviewing permits, codes, and ordinances. Shepard has a listing of those who have previously served on the PZC. They can be asked if they want to continue to serve. Platte County Mayor's Council has just nominated Mayor Schofield as the chair of this group. The permit process needs to be reviewed. Mayor Schofield has added contacting the building inspector to the initial review of permits. More input is needed to improve the permit process. Sharron de la Fuente mentioned that neighbors need to be informed of permits in case there may be objections to permits that are under consideration.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 06/10/2026



City Council Working Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday, the 3rd day of May, 2026

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

The working meeting of the City Council of Houston Lake, MO, was called to order by Mayor Sarah Schofield on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 3:15 PM.

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

PERMITS

Shepard provided copies of HL Code Chapter 500 - Building Regulations & Building Permit to Council. Mayor Schofield noted that HL Code Chapter 235 - Property Maintenance Regulations is also relevant in reviewing permits. Ways to restructure the permit process were discussed. The Building Inspector has been requested recently to review work started in the City ahead of, and after, a permit has been submitted. Codes need to be reviewed and updated. Olson asked to investigate reconvening the HL Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). Mayor Schofield suggested Aldermen could be in charge of particular aspects of the city, i.e. permits, infrastructure, roads, grinder pumps, IT, etc.

5459 NW Venetian Dr - Garage - resident seeking a survey. Property is in HL and KC. No action at this time.

5275 NW Edgewood Trl - Fence - Olson moved to approve this permit. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

5428 NW Houston Lake Dr - Fence - Fence has started to be built prior to permit approval. Fence is at a height that exceeds the current codes. Permit will be sent to PZC for further review. Loring moved to charge a one day violation fee for starting work prior to submitting a permit and, in good faith because these residents attended the meeting and stopped work when requested, may put up approximately 5 pickets on the fence, and leave the fence up until PZC can address the permit. Heese 2nd. The fee will be determined and communicated to the residents.

5327 NW Edgewood Cir - Fence - Permit will be sent to PZC for further review. Heese moved to enforce a fee from the date of the letter to take down the fence to the time the permit was received. Loring 2nd. A voice vote resulted in approval.

5275 NW Edgewood Trl - Ditch/Grant/VGHA - It was determined no permit was needed. Requested resident to submit copy of grant to the City.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL (CHAPTER 420 - RESTRICTIONS ON SHORT-TERM RENTALS)

Loring moved to approve the STR Application. Olson 2nd. A voice resulted in approval. Discussion about process. Hand deliver flyer to every household including how to obtain an STR application and the date it needs to be submitted. Deadline to submit application is to be Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM. Application can be uploaded to HL website for ease of access. Hard copies will be made available on the front porch of City Hall. Once notice is ready it will be posted on Facebook.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT (DITCHES)

Discussion regarding water issues experienced recently in the City. David Cliburn submitted an email to Council, Mayor Schofield will address. Annemarie Murphy shared on Facebook issues at her home. Mayor Schofield has had verbal conversations with other residents. It was suggested to use Fire Protection funds to clear specific problem ditches/culverts. Obtain three bids for clearing out specific problem ditches/culverts. Need a map to mark three specific areas to give to bidders.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (CHAPTER 225 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT)

Platte County will send someone to the May 13 City Council meeting to make a presentation on Emergency Management.

MILL AND OVERLAY PROGRESS REPORT

After May 31, Superior Bowen can asphalt Edgewater Trail. It was suggested to save the mill, to be spread out in the City Hall parking lot.

Loring requested a salary and hours review be placed on the next City Council meeting agenda. Shepard has asked all City Staff to submit their monthly hours for all staff to be reviewed.

Section 500.230 Culver Size under a street must be no smaller than 15 inches.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next City Council meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Schofield adjourned the meeting at 5:29 PM.

Minutes submitted by: City Clerk, Lisa A. Shepard

Approved 06/10/2026

**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:

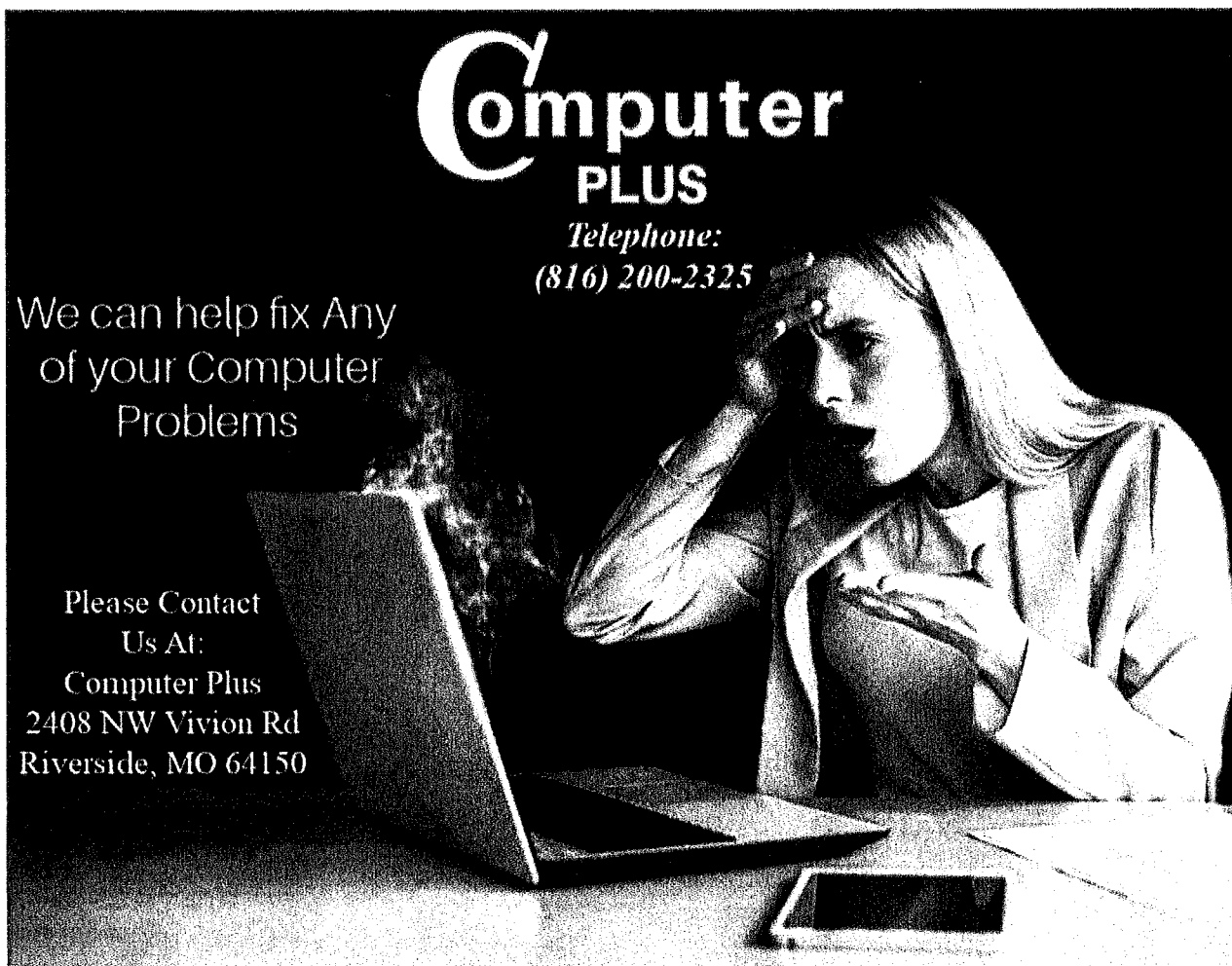
www.houstonlake.gov then select **Houston Laker**

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**

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A black and white photograph of a woman sitting at a desk, looking extremely frustrated. She has her hand on her forehead and is looking at a laptop. Smoke is coming out of the laptop, suggesting it is overheating or has a problem. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the woman's face and the laptop.

**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

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 Bookkeeper – 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
drmill5@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**

Garden update:

Our little gardener is all grown up now. Lily Gay's first experience with the garden was when she was only 2. She planted her first time at age 5 and now she's 17 and still loves the garden. Thank you Lily for helping me this morning!!

Some good news with a little bad....the marigolds we planted last week apparently were eaten by a hungry ground hog. He ate all of them. I bought some new chicken wire to patch some of the holes and some new marigolds that we'll plant as soon as the fence is fixed.

Lily and I planted the cucumber plants and some sugar snap pea seeds. Lily filled in the green bean plants that were washed out by the heavy rain. She also planted a couple sweet pepper plants.

Lily is also going to plant more lettuce, radishes, collard and spinach as they were all washed out as well.

This weekend Michael turned on the auto sprinkler and it's programed for Monday, Wednesday and Friday and just in time for the hot weather.

We still have a couple areas open for some plants or seeds if someone wants to use it. Just give me a call or text and I'll meet you there.

Thank you again Lily for all you did this morning. It was wonderful being with you.

Marsha

816-419-5051



IS YOUR HOUSE NUMBER VISIBLE FROM THE STREET -

please take time to walk out to the street in front of your house. If you can't see your house number in daylight, and at night, from the street - PLEASE take time this month to refurbish the street numbers on your home. The City thanks you, the VGHA thanks you, and Emergency Services thanks you - especially if they need to locate your home to help protect you!!!



**NO
PARKING
ON
STREET**

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

**Public parking is
available on the gravel
lot next to CITY HALL.**

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

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

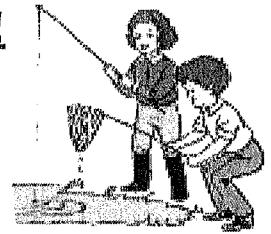


A BIG THANK YOU - to all those who have been volunteering around the community to take care of downed branches, etc. Another thank you to Jennifer Heese, Larry Hansen, Johnny Nave, Gage Hass, and Lisa Shepard for taking care of the tree that fell into the Lake. And a very special thank you to Don Miller, Brendan Brousseau, and Phil Otte - you know why you are being thanked AND you know how much your recent service is appreciated!!!!!!

* * * * *

**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 drmill5@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.

Art Delivery Date: August 8, 2 - 4pm
Exhibit: August 15, 2 - 4pm

The **Arts Circle** is honored to announce a call for entries to our 10th Annual Art Show. This year's theme.

Birds of the lake

This is a call to residents for their handmade creations in any medium. Lets see works from new participants and those we haven't seen for a while. So get out your paints, brushers, clay, ink or print out some of those great sunrise/sunset photos from your phone!

Entry Guidelines

Open to all Houston Lake Residents. All works must be made by the artist. Floor works must be firmly stable and less than 3 sq ft. Wall mounted pieces are limited to 20 lbs, and must be ready to hang.

Exhibit

Performance works performed only at the exhibit opening.

Pieces are displayed in City Hall from August to January.

2026/7 Arts Circle Artwork Form (attach to back of art)

Artist:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Art Work

Title:

Medium (watercolor, yarn, etc):

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

2026/7 Arts Circle Artwork Form (attach to back of art)

Artist:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Art Work

Title:

Medium (watercolor, yarn, etc):

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



CELEBRATE
THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY

*of the
Venetian Gardens Homes Association
1946 - 2026*

FRIDAY, JULY 3RD
AT CITY HALL
BEGINNING AT 5PM

5PM - GARAGE SALE BINGO
6PM - SPAGHETTI DINNER POTLUCK
FOLLOWED BY A PIE TASTING CONTEST
ENJOY FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES
OUTSIDE INTO THE EVENING

*Look for an email invite to sign up
for the potluck and pie contest*

Sign up at

<https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/EVSQ2243>



FOURTH OF JULY



PICNIC



**SATURDAY, JULY 4TH
BEGINNING AT 9AM**



**9AM - COMMUNITY EVENT AT MAYORS PARK
FOLLOWED BY YARD GAMES AT CITY HALL
12 NOON - BURGERS & HOT DOG POTLUCK**



**BRING A SIDE DISH, SALAD, CHIPS,
CONDIMENTS, DRINKS OR DESSERT
TO SHARE. SIGN UP AT
[HTTPS://WWW.PERFECTPOTLUCK.COM/HHYL8769](https://www.perfectpotluck.com/HHYL8769)**



Introduction to the 2026-2027 Preliminary Budget City of Houston Lake

Current Income Sources for the City of Houston Lake

• Primary Revenue Stream: Tax Collections

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

• Secondary Revenue Stream: Utility Franchise Taxes

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

New Budget Items

- Income - City Hall Rental
- Income - STR Permits
- Income - Sales Tax (to begin October 1, 2026)
- Expense - Collections Commission & Assessments (Platte County)

Why is this Budget Preliminary?

The City of Houston Lake does not receive the proposed 2027 Personal Property Tax, Real Estate Tax, and Fire Protection Services figures from the State and Platte County until the first week in August - at which time this budget will be amended.

Approved 06/25/2026



Preliminary 2026-2027 Budget

City of Houston Lake

General Fund - Income	Amended Budget 07/01/25-06/30/26	Actual 07/01/25-05/31/26	Budget 2026-2027
Bond & Permit Fees	800	1,562	1,000
City Hall Rental		325	0
STR Permits		580	1,000
Interest Earned	180	142	100
Municipal Court Fines	7,000	2,611	3,000
Property Taxes (PP & RE)	26,297	21,557	26,297
Houston Lake Sewer & Trash/Recycle	139,698	134,692	143,822
Fire Protection Services	28,994	28,994	28,994
Grinder Pump	19,200	19,200	19,200
Railroad and Utility Tax	1,800	1,882	1,900
Sales Tax			
Utility Franchise Tax	42,000	38,558	40,000
VGHA Reimbursement	2,500	1,353	1,750
Bridge Grant		32,573	17,427
Transfer from General Fund Reserve	29,550		
Total General Fund Income	298,019	284,029	284,490
General Fund - Expense	Amended Budget 07/01/25-06/30/26	Actual 07/01/25-05/31/26	Budget 2026-2027
MAINTENANCE			
KC Sewer Maintenance	99,511	94,111	100,620
Trash/Recycle Disposal	40,169	36,756	41,778
Bridge	40,500	32,573	23,927
Property/Park Maintenance	10,000	4,005	10,000
ADMINISTRATION			
Employee Salaries and Expense			
Mayor	1,200	1,100	1,200
Aldermen (4)	2,400	1,950	2,400
City Clerk	2,400	2,200	2,400
Bookkeeper	3,600	3,300	3,600
City Collector	600	550	600
Code Administration			0
Maintenance			1,000
Cleaning (City Hall)	600	450	400
Payroll Taxes - all	1,700	1607	1,652
Taxes Withheld from gross		(731)	(826)
Training and Education	1,000	801	1,000
Travel/Mileage	150	144	150
Utilities			
Electric	1,700	1,574	1,830
Gas	1,900	1,490	1,725
Water	350	310	360
Supplies			
Kitchen and Restroom Supplies	200	115	200
Office Supplies	2,000	1,017	2,000
Office Equipment/Maintenance	3,595	2,855	3,200
Administrative			
Attorney Fees/Acctg Fees/Codifying	6,000	4,562	6,000
Bond, Permit and Building Inspection		100	
Collectors Commission & Assessments			2,504
Court - Domestic Shelter	100	44	75
Court - Law Enforcement Training	100	44	75
Election Expense	800	693	1,600
Gifts/Awards/Donations	500	40	350
Insurance	7,750	9,297	10,000
Law Enforcement Services	17,000	15,447	18,000

Special Events	1,000	138	1,000
Technology Services	3,000	2,952	3,500
Grinder Pump Expenses pd from Gen'l		17,133	
Transfer to Grinder Pump Fund	19,200	19,200	19,200
Transfer to Fire Protection Fund	28,994	28,994	28,994
Total General Fund Expense	298,019	284,820	290,514
Grinder Pump Fund - Income	Amended Budget 07/01/25-06/30/26	Actual 07/01/25-05/31/26	Budget 2026-2027
Interest Earned	250	80	80
Grinder Pump	19,200	19,200	19,200
Total Grinder Pump Income	19,450	19,280	19,280
Grinder Pump Fund - Expense			
Pump Install/Repair/Replace	19,450	3,268	19,280
Total Grinder Pump Expense	19,450	3,268	19,280
Fire Protection Fund - Income	Amended Budget 07/01/25-06/30/26	Actual 07/01/25-05/31/26	Budget 2026-2027
Interest Earned	450	383	400
Transfer from Fire Protection Fund Reserve	4,056		
Special Tax Levy	28,994	28,994	28,994
Total Fire Protection Fund Income	33,500	29,377	29,394
Fire Protection Fund - Expense			
Snow Removal	8,500	4,295	6,594
Fire Protection	15,000	13,750	15,000
Fire Protection Operations	10,000	7,800	7,800
BOW - charge for lost check		15	
Total Fire Protection Fund Expense	33,500	25,860	29,394
Road Fund - Income	Amended Budget 07/01/25-06/30/26	Actual 07/01/25-05/31/26	Budget 2026-2027
Interest Earned	30	30	30
Donation (potehole repair)		100	
Parkville Road District	2,800	5,573	2,800
Transportation Sales Tax (Project)	17,500	23,818	12,000
MODOR Vehicle Tax Rebates	12,000	12,653	12,500
Total Road Fund Income	32,330	42,174	27,330
Road Fund - Expense			
Street Lighting	3,500	3,168	3,500
Engineer Review			7,500
Street Maintenance	11,330		16,330
Total Road Fund Expense	14,830	3,168	27,330

Instructions

Completely fill in the target next to the candidate or question response of your choice like this: ●

If you do not see the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote, darken the target opposite the write-in line and print the name of the candidate on the write-in line provided.

If you are in favor of the question, completely fill in the target opposite "YES". If you are opposed to the question, completely fill in the target opposite "NO".

NOTE: The ballot reading device in use is designed to only record votes cast as a filled in target. There can be no erasures, stray marks, check marks, or cross outs on the ballot. If you make an error marking the ballot, see an Election Judge to receive a replacement ballot.

State of Missouri

CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT NO. 1

Proposed by Article IV, Section 47(c)
(Second Regular Session) SJR No. 1

Shall Missouri continue for 10 years the one-tenth of one percent sales/use tax that is used for soil and water conservation and for state parks and historic sites, and resubmit this tax to the voters for approval in 10 years?

The measure allows continued collection of the existing sales and use tax, which generates revenue of approximately \$140 million annually.

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT NO. 2

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly,
(First Regular Session) HCS HJR Nos. 23 & 3

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:
· require all charter counties, including Jackson County, to provide for the election of a county assessor; and
· require assessors in all charter counties to comply with any training requirements established by general law?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT NO. 4

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly
(Second Extraordinary Session)
HCS HJR No. 3

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:
· Modify current requirements that a statewide majority of voters may approve initiative petitions to amend the constitution;
· Require a majority of voters in each congressional district to approve initiative petitions to amend the constitution; and
· Make available to each voter the full text of initiative petitions with their ballot?

The Department of Corrections estimates increased annual costs of up to \$21,817. The Office of State Public Defender estimates an unknown fiscal impact. Other state governmental entities estimate no costs or savings. Local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT NO. 5

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly,
(Second Regular Session) SS SCS HCS HJR Nos. 173 & 174

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:
· Require legislative phase-out of the individual state income tax based on revenue growth, and authorize the expansion of sales and use taxes;
· Curtail constitutional limits on taxing goods and services; and
· Require local tax rate cuts without reducing school funding if local sales tax revenue increases?

The proposal has no direct impact on state or local tax revenue. If passed, implementing legislation will have an unknown impact to state and local tax revenue. If implemented, state government entities expect a reduction of \$57,000 annually in income tax check-off donations and implementation costs of at least \$100,000.

- ☐ YES
☐ NO

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State of Missouri

For State Auditor

(Vote for ONE)

○ Scott Fitzpatrick

○ Gerald (Jerry) Wistrand Jr.

For United States Representative 6th District

(Vote for ONE)

○ Jim Ingram

○ Chris Stigall

○ Nathan Hall Willett

○ Cody J. Oshel

○ Nathanael Schultz

For State Senator District 34

(Vote for ONE)

○ Sean Pouche

○ Mike Jones

○ Ryan Gerster

For State Representative District 12

(Vote for ONE)

○ Jerry Hickey

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1

Proposed by Article IV, Section 47(c)

(Second Regular Session) SJR No. 1

Shall Missouri continue for 10 years the one-tenth of one percent sales/use tax that is used for soil and water conservation and for state parks and historic sites, and resubmit this tax to the voters for approval in 10 years?

The measure allows continued collection of the existing sales and use tax, which generates revenue of approximately \$140 million annually.

○ YES

○ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly,

(First Regular Session) HCS HJR Nos. 23 & 3

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

· require all charter counties, including Jackson County, to provide for the election of a county assessor; and

· require assessors in all charter counties to comply with any training requirements established by general law?

State and local governmental entities estimate no costs or savings.

○ YES

○ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 4

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly

(Second Extraordinary Session) HCS HJR No. 3

Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

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○ YES

○ NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 5

Proposed by 103rd General Assembly,

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Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to:

· Require legislative phase-out of the individual state income tax based on revenue growth, and authorize the expansion of sales and use taxes;

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○ YES

○ NO

Platte County

For Presiding Commissioner

(Vote for ONE)

○ Gena L. Ross

○ Jason Maki

For County Clerk

(Vote for ONE)

○ Mary Calvillo

○ Russ "Wojo" Wojtkiewicz

○ Jera Pruitt

For Recorder of Deeds

(Vote for ONE)

○ Christopher L. Wright

○ Nicholas Palmer

For Prosecutor

(Vote for ONE)

○ Tony Luetkemeyer

For County Auditor

(Vote for ONE)

○ Laura Waldon

For Collector

(Vote for ONE)

○ Jim Bosch

For Treasurer

(Vote for ONE)

○ Elliot Lahn

For Committeewoman District
12-3

(Vote for ONE)

- ☐ Kathy S. Davis
- ☐ Brittney Loch Matousek
- ☐ Write-in

SAMPLE

Turn ballot over

Instructions

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State of Missouri

For State Auditor

(Vote for ONE)

☐

Quentin Wilson

☐

Gregory Upchurch

For United States Representative 6th District

(Vote for ONE)

☐

Josh Smead

☐

Scot Pondelick

☐

Matt Levine

For State Senator District 34

(Vote for ONE)

☐

Shereka Barnes

☐

Pam May

For State Representative District 12

(Vote for ONE)

☐

Tracey Steele

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1

Proposed by Article IV, Section 47(c)

(Second Regular Session) SJR No. 1

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☐

YES

☐

NO

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2

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☐

YES

☐

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☐

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☐

YES

☐

NO

Platte County

For Presiding Commissioner

(Vote for ONE)

☐

Mary McKenna

For County Clerk

(Vote for ONE)

☐

Hans Peter

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State of Missouri

For State Auditor

(Vote for ONE)

Dustin Coffell

For United States Representative
6th District

(Vote for ONE)

Andy Maidment

CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT NO. 1

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(Second Regular Session) SJR No. 1

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YES

NO

To apply for absentee ballot: print this application form, complete and mail to Platte County Board of Elections, PO Box 560, Platte City, MO 64079 or FAX to 816-858-3387

REQUEST FOR PLATTE COUNTY ABSENTEE BALLOT

I, _____, do hereby request an absentee ballot for the _____ Election.

For Identification purposes, the last four digits of my social security number are _____.

If the election is a primary election, please print the name of the political party ballot you wish to receive _____. If you registered by mail and this is your first time voting you must provide a copy of current valid photo identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document that shows your name and address.

Reason for requesting an absentee ballot:

- _____ (1) Absence on Election Day from the jurisdiction of the election authority in which registered to voter;
- _____ (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability;
- _____ (3) Religious belief or practice
- _____ (4) Employment as an election authority, as a member of an election authority, or by an election authority at a location other than your polling place;
- _____ (5) Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained
- _____ (6) certified participation in the address confidentiality program established under sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of safety concerns.
- _____ (7) For an election that occurs during the year 2020, the voter has contracted or is in an at-risk category for contracting or transmitting severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.

Current Residential Address:

Address where ballot is to be mailed, if different than above:

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

I do solemnly swear that all statements made on this application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief:

Signature of Voter

Date

Mail completed Absentee Ballot Application to **Platte County Board of Elections, PO Box 560, Platte City, MO 64079, or FAX to 816-858-3387.** All requests must be received by the Board of Election's office no later than 5:00 p.m., the second Wednesday prior to election day.

What's Recyclable?



Acceptable Items



Plastics

Recycle plastics #1, #2 and #5. Look on the bottom of containers for the number inside the recycling arrows.



Metal Cans

Recycle all food and beverage metal cans—steel, tin, bi-metal and aluminum.



Cardboard, Newspaper & Magazines

Recycle newspaper inserts, catalogs, paperback books, phone books, egg cartons and brochures.



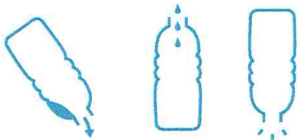
Paper Food Containers & Cartons

Recycle juice boxes, egg and milk cartons, and cereal and pasta boxes.



Paper

Recycle envelopes, office paper, junk mail, greeting cards and file folders. Shredded paper should be put in a paper bag.



Empty. Clean. Dry.

Please make sure your recyclables are **empty, clean and dry** before placing them in your recycling cart.



Unacceptable Items

Batteries
Bio-hazardous waste
Cables
Ceramics
Clothes
Construction debris
Diapers
Dishes or mirrors
Egg cartons (Styrofoam)
Electronics
Food or liquid waste
Greasy food containers
Hardback books
Hazardous waste
Holiday decorations
Hoses
Ice cream cartons (wax-coated)
Light bulbs
Plastic bags
Plastic food wrappers
Plastic straws
Plastic without numbers
Polystyrene foam
Scrap metal
Shoes
Tissue
To-go lids
Tools
Toys
Yard waste

Visit [RecyclingSimplified.com](https://www.RecyclingSimplified.com) for more information.

Recycling *Simplified*



Sustainability in Action

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM

Reaching Residents of Houston Lake **QUICKLY** and the Delivery of the Houston Laker

The City of Houston Lake and the Venetian Garden's Homes Association are looking at ways to streamline processes AND we want to be able to reach residents quickly when important matters arise in between the monthly publication of the Houston Laker.

We would like to hear from every resident regarding how you can be contacted. Even if you **think** we already have your cell phone number and email address, PLEASE complete this survey and return it to City Hall. Please put it in a sealed envelope and drop it through the slot in the City Hall front door. OR, you may scan and email your form to **cityclerk@houstonlake.gov** (Your City Clerk and Treasurer of VGHA will coordinate the "sharing" of this information for both organizations.)

Name _____

Address _____

Cell Phone Number (for texts) _____

Email address _____

The Houston Laker is now online at **www.houstonlake.gov** - everyone has access to it when it is posted at the beginning of each month. In recent months, more and more Houston Lakers are found in the bushes and blowing around the City. Both the City and the VGHA have decided we want to know exactly who in the neighborhood would like to continue to receive a hard copy of the Houston Laker hung on their front door monthly.

Please mark one choice with an "X"

_____ I would like a hard copy of the Houston Laker delivered to my door monthly.

_____ I will access the Houston Laker on line at **www.houstonlake.gov**

NOTE: With technology advances changing rapidly, the City and the VGHA are looking into electronic notification that the Houston Laker is ready to be viewed. We will keep you posted when this service becomes available.