HOUSTON LAKER

Since March 1957 – Edition 69 September 2026



Photo by Chuck Stone

Art Circle

Showing

Aug. 15, 2026

. . . . .

Kathryn,

Jean,

Shelly,

Bobbi,

and Valerie



2026 TRASH & RECYCLING

City Trash and Recycling Service are handled by **Republic Services**. For questions regarding large item pickup contact Republic's customer service at **816-254-1470** or **republicservices.com**. For assistance with your receptacles and/or issues with pick-up, contact city-council@houstonlake.gov

One Trash bin and **one** Recycling bin are 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.)**

Bins need to be at the cub/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 bin 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:

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
September 2026
Events

Thursdays - Trash/Recycle

7 –



9 – Wednesday City of Houston Lake meeting – City Hall 6:30pm.

13 – Sunday Grandparents Day

21 – Monday VGHA meeting 6:30pm City Hall.

24 – Thursday Houston Laker articles/pictures deadline

October 24, 2026 Saturday Venetian Gardens Homes Association Annual meeting At 1:00pm – City Hall.

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Houston Lake Cookbooks
1st and 2nd Edition of the Houston Lake Cookbooks and **Houston Lake History Book**
77 pages of the History of Houston Lake are both available. Email Mary Head at maryjewel40@gmail.com or call (816) 741-5639.

Auditors Needed

Three volunteers are needed to "audit the books" (review the check book and other financial records) for the Venetian Garden Homes Association. As required by the bylaws, an audit of the books must be completed prior to the Annual Meeting which will be held in October. It is not an overwhelming task, probably an hour or two. The Treasurer, Don Miller, will meet with the volunteers to get this job done. So, would you like to help the Homes Association? And, if you have done an audit before, you can offer your services again. Call Don Miller at 918-633-4109 or email at drmiller5@icloud.com

Thank you

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Here is our UFO story:

Submitted by "Gene" Charles

With all the talk lately about UFOs, I was reminded of a story told to us by a former neighbor named Melvin Leiker, who may be known by only a very few here. He moved to Hays, Kansas and was on the police force there. We once met up with him in San Antonio, Texas and he told us about going to work in the wee hours one morning and saw some very bright lights in a cow pasture. When he went home, he went by there and the grass was scorched in the spot where he had seen the lights. We knew Melvin for a very long time and I know he wouldn't fabricate such a story.

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VENETIAN GARDENS HOMES ASSOCIATION
BOARD APPLICATION

NAME _____ DATE OF FILING _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

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

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

Anyone interested in becoming a Board Member, please complete the application on this page and mail it to "Venetian Gardens Homes Association, 5417 N. Adrian, Houston Lake, Missouri 64151" or drop it off at city hall in the HOA mail box, located on the front porch next to the front door by September 30, 2026. Thank you

City Clerk Job Description

The City of Houston Lake, Missouri

Position Summary

Under general direction from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and/or a City Administrator if applicable, the City Clerk performs professional, administrative, financial, recordkeeping, and statutory duties for the City. The City Clerk serves as the official custodian of City records, maintains the proceedings of the Board of Aldermen, acts as the general accountant of the City, administers official oaths, and supports transparent communication between local government and the public.

Codes Enforcement Officer

City of Houston Lake, Missouri

Position Summary

The City of Houston Lake, Missouri is seeking a professional, detail-oriented Codes Enforcement Officer to plan, coordinate, and manage the City's nuisance and animal code enforcement programs. Working under the direct supervision of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, this position supports public health, safety, neighborhood preservation, and voluntary compliance through fair, consistent, and well-documented enforcement of municipal ordinances.

Job Posting: Part-Time General Maintenance & Landscaper

The City of Houston Lake is seeking a reliable part-time general maintenance and landscaping worker to assist with year-round maintenance needs on an as-needed basis. This position may include light maintenance of city buildings, equipment, and machinery; changing HVAC filters; sealing and trim work around windows and doors; preventative cleaning and upkeep; basic maintenance of small machinery, water heaters, garage doors, and openers; emptying dog waste stations and park trash cans; placing trash bins at the curb for pickup and returning them afterward; and planning, planting, and weeding garden areas around City Hall (this does not include mowing and clearing). The City Council is open to discussing ideas with interested applicants and will consider either W-2 or 1099 arrangements depending on the needs of the City and the applicant's qualifications. To apply, please send a resume or letter of interest to **city-council@houstonlake.gov**.

Notice to Residents: Reporting Code Violations

The City of Houston Lake is continuing its search for a part-time codes enforcement officer. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to report potential code violations by emailing **city-council@houstonlake.gov**. Please include the date, time, location, a brief description of the concern, and a photo so the city council can review and track the issue appropriately. The City is also creating a code violation reporting form that will be available on the website in the future. Once published, residents should use that form to submit reports, as it will help identify which matters can be addressed by the City and which should be referred to the Platte County Sheriff's Office.

BECOME AWARE OF CITY CODES & ORDINANCES

Ordinances are available on the city website at HOUSTONLAKE.GOV or by contacting cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

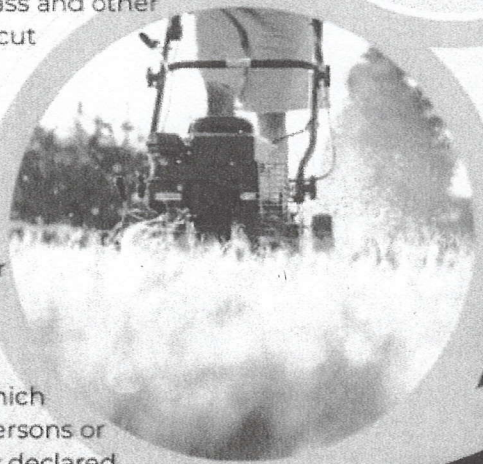
- No person shall throw or deposit or dump any litter on any property within the City, whether owned by such person or not.
- All exterior property and premises shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage or junk and shall be disposed of in a clean & sanitary manner in acceptable containers.
- 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.



BECOME AWARE OF CITY CODES & ORDINANCES

Ordinances are available on the city website at HOUSTONLAKE.GOV or by contacting cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

- 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 18 inches, it shall be deemed a public nuisance. After the City has proceeded once with notice and abatement procedures, weeds, high grass or other vegetation exceeding six (6) inches may be deemed a public nuisance.
- Hazardous trees. A live or dead tree which constitutes a hazard to the safety of persons or of property, private or public, is hereby declared to be a nuisance.



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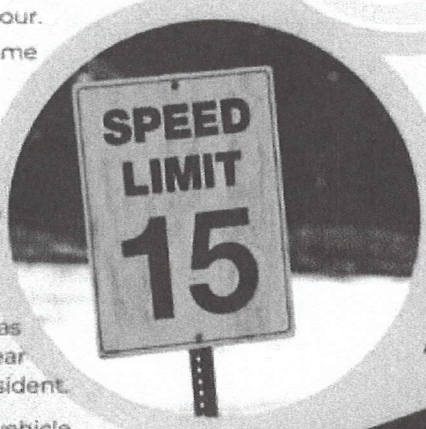
- "Recreational Fire", a fire used for cooking, warmth, or recreational enjoyment in an outdoor fire pit or fireplace, which is not used for disposal of waste or refuse.
- The fire pit or outdoor fireplace shall not exceed 36 inches in width, shall be specifically designed for outdoor use & built to contain flames & embers safely & include a protective barrier (such as a screen or lid) to contain flying embers. The fire pit or fireplace shall be placed at least 15 feet away from combustible materials. Only dry, seasoned wood shall be burned. This includes small branches and twigs from trees that have been pruned or trimmed. Constant supervision of the fire is required by an adult. The fire shall never be left unattended at any time while burning.



BECOME AWARE OF CITY CODES & ORDINANCES

Ordinances are available on the city website at HOUSTONLAKE.GOV or by contacting cityclerk@houstonlake.gov

- No person shall operate a vehicle on any street in the City in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour.
- No person shall park a vehicle at any time upon any of the streets
- No person shall operate or park any motor vehicle or trailer upon any street in the City unless such has properly displayed a valid license plate or plates or temporary permit issued by the State of Missouri, except that any person who is a non-resident provided the motor vehicle or trailer has been duly registered for the current year in the State of which the owner is a resident.
- No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle upon the streets of this City



GARDEN UPDATE:

For the first time in 16 years the garden is a disaster this year. Because of the intense heat followed by torrential rains kept us from keeping up with the weeding and maintenance.

We did however manage to harvest a fair amount of green Beans.....around 30 or so pounds and distributed it to many of our residents. And many of you were able to pick some tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers before the weeds took over.

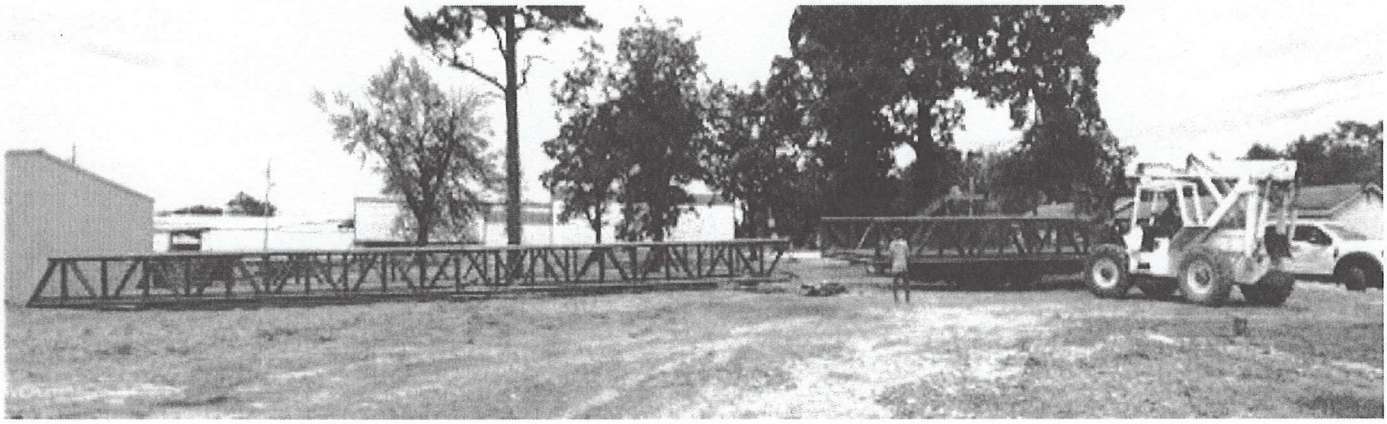
I do have a couple volunteers that in the next few weeks will start weeding and covering the beds as needed.

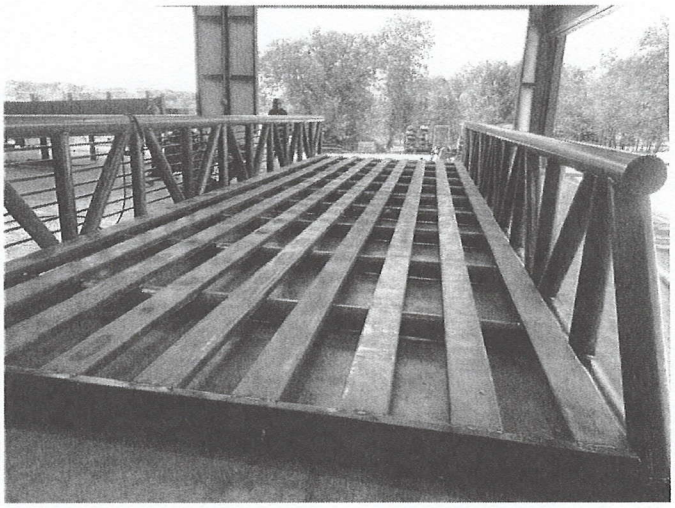
I do anticipate that next year will be more of the same weather or even worse as climate change is effecting the entire planet. A different strategy certainly is needed in gardening and I plan to check all avenues. If you have any thoughts or ideas I would really appreciate it.

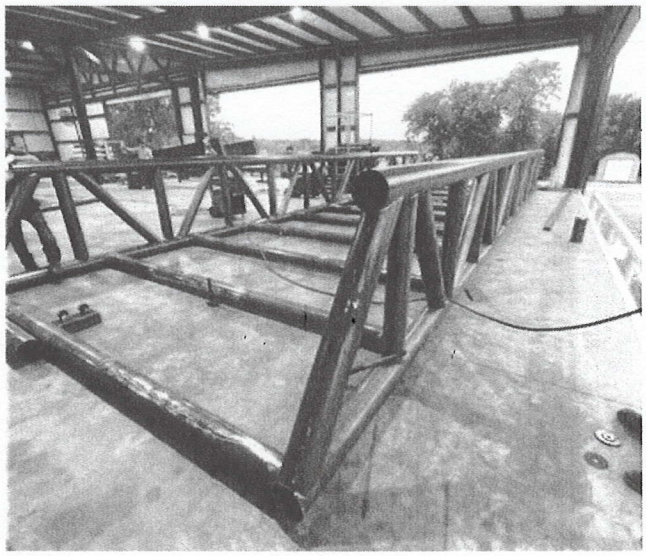
Thanks to all of you for your support through the years. It's been a privilege to live in this wonderful community.

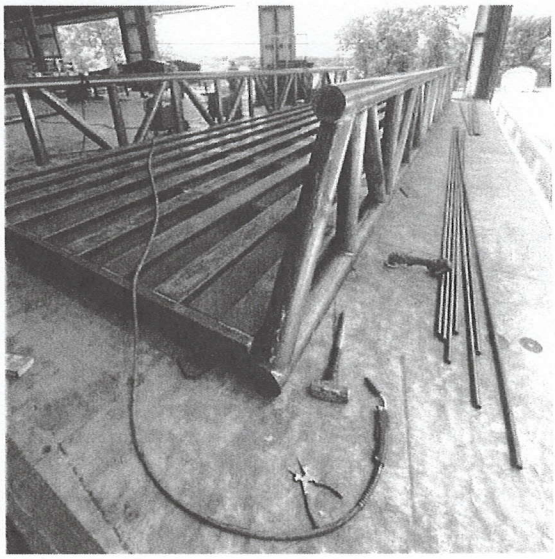
Marsha Duncan
816.419.5051

The new pedestrian and bicycle bridge on Houston Drive is being built off site and will be delivered sometime this fall. These are some early pictures of the bridge in progress.









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:

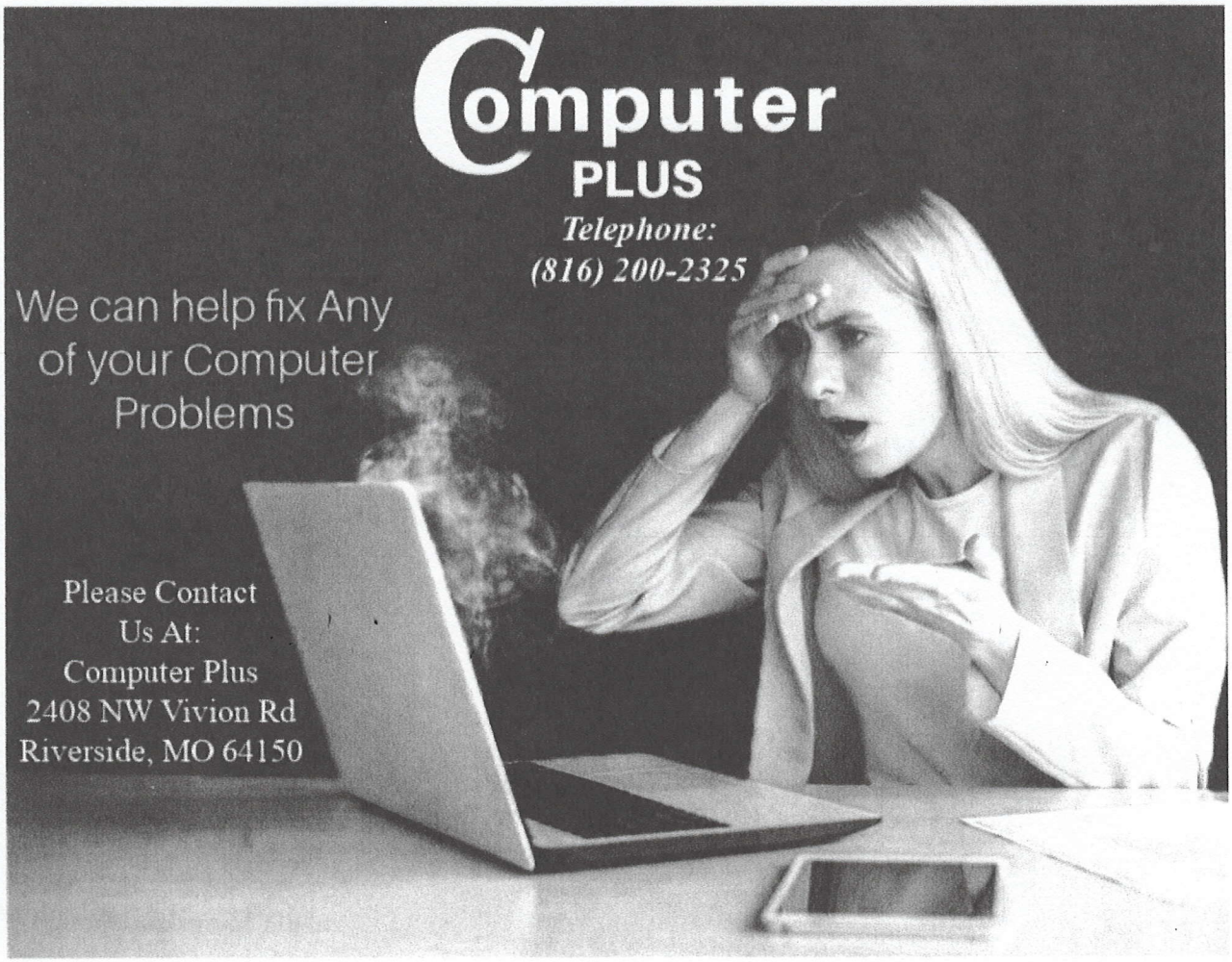
www.houstonlake.gov then select **Houston Laker**

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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Houston Lake City Officials

City Hall – (816) 741-0644

Mayor – Sarah Schofield
mayor@houstonlake.gov

City Clerk –
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
drmiller5@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

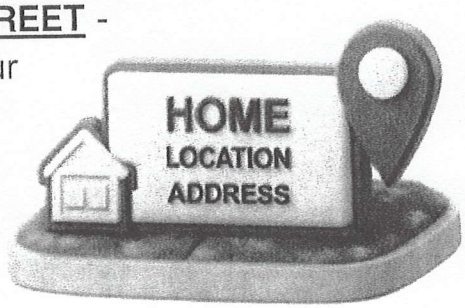
In case of a Police, Fire, or Medical Emergency – Call 911

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

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!!!





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!

