

# CITY HALL NEWS

## Payments to City Hall

The forms of payments to the City of Vinita Park must be **cash, money orders, credit/debit card, or a business check. No personal checks will be accepted for payment.** We apologize for any inconvenience.

## Code Adoption

Ordinance No. 1247, Adoption of the National Electrical Code/2008, NFPA 70 and Ordinance No. 1248, Adoption of the International Code Council (ICC) Codes were passed at the March 16, 2015 Board Meeting. The following code books will be on file at the City Hall for public to view 2009 ICC Code Book and 2008 National Electrical Code Book (NEC).

## BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

Once you have gathered the supplies for a basic emergency kit, you may want to consider adding the following items:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies,

identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container. You can use the Emergency Financial First Aid Kit - EFFAK (PDF - 977Kb) developed by Operation Hope, FEMA and Citizen Corps to help you organize your information.

- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or free information from this web site. (See Publications)
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted, nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Alternatively, in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

For more information, go to <http://www.ready.gov/kit#> or call (800) 621-FEMA (3362).

## Non-Emergency Dispatch

If there are any non-emergencies which require a police officer, please contact dispatch at 314-427-8000.

## Municipal Consolidated Courts

For all Municipal Court matters please call 314-428-6811

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 1- New Year's Day
- January 2- New Year's Day Holiday/City Hall Closed
- January 3- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- January 4- Municipal Court City of St. Ann 10:00am
- January 6- Yard Waste Pickup
- January 10- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- January 12- Housing Court City of St. Ann 10:30am
- January 13- Yard Waste Pickup
- January 16- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day/ City Hall Closed
- January 17- Election Filing Closing/ Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm/Trash & Recycle Pickup
- January 18- Municipal Court City of St. Ann 10:00am
- January 20- Yard Waste Pickup
- January 24- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- January 27- Yard Waste Pickup
- January 31- Trash & Recycle Pickup



## VINITA PARK CITY HALL

8374 MIDLAND  
(314)428-7373  
FAX: (314)428-7379  
MONDAY – FRIDAY  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

## MAYOR

James W. McGee  
428-7373

## COLLECTOR

Jeanette Carridine  
428-7373

## BOARD OF ALDERMEN

### WARD 1

Brian Gremaud  
922-0885

Richard Redel  
368-2329

### WARD 2

Wanda Fairley  
667-8080

Ora Stokes  
429-6863

Celeste McGee  
428-7373

Veronica Conner  
684-9336



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

VOLUME 2017:1

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

## WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season! "HAPPY NEW YEAR" to all of our elected officials, employees, residents, and businesses. The greatest gifts are from the heart. I am so grateful for each and every one of you. We would like to celebrate all of Vinita Park's accomplishments for the year 2016. The City of Vinita Park received the "Culture of Health Community Award" from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton, NJ. This great award gets Vinita Park National attention. We also received "The Spirit of St. Louis Community Unity Leadership Award" from the Pneuma (Spirit) Center, Inc., "The Liberty and Freedom Award" from the Secretary of Defense for our support of the National Guard and Reserve Force, and "The Leadership Award" from the National League of Cities in Pittsburgh, Pa. The North County Police Cooperative now patrols several Cities and is also working on their CALEA Accreditation. I would like to congratulate Allen Nyles Buckner for being the City of Vinita Park Most Successful Youth for 2016. Mr. Buckner is a junior student at Mary Institute Country Day School (MICDS). He participates in the Chess, Robotics Club and the Taylor Science Center Program of St. Louis. He is a member of the MICDS Varsity Cross Country and Track & Field Team. He is also a member of Boys Scouts of America (currently finishing requirement for becoming an Eagle Scout), the National Society of Black Engineers and the St. Louis NAACP Youth Group. He has performed community service activities for his church, All Saints Episcopal Church, Vinita Park, The Demetrius Johnson Foundation, and others.

Thank you for supporting our mission which is to develop, facilitate and deploy comprehensive and integrated strategies to help Vinita Park become a better place to live.

All our elected officials, and residents, would like to welcome all Vinita Terrace residents as a part of Vinita Park. On November 8th, both cities voted to become consolidated as Vinita Park and we have started the transition process by looking at timelines for the following: contracts, bank statements, budgets, and moving the courts to St. Ann in May, with a full merger May 8th, 2017.

I appreciate your feedback from the City of Vinita Park Survey, as well as from the Mayor's advisory committee, police review committee, safety

committee and youth committee. We can make a difference. We will work with partners to increase our capacity, expertise and capital. We understand that in order to have real impact we must focus on all the areas that make up a strong community; quality education, housing, health, employment readiness, and economic development.

What are the expected outcomes from our activities and efforts?

- Short-term outcomes: Knowledge, attitude, skills. Residents have the knowledge, skills and motivation to improve their circumstances.
- Intermediate outcomes: behavior change, residents have access to and utilize, comprehensive supports and services allowing them to make choices that will improve their lives and Vinita Park.
- Long-term outcomes: change in condition as a result of the short and intermediate outcomes, Vinita Park can attract and retain residents and businesses by providing quality housing, education, work, and other amenities to support a healthy and productive quality of life.

Our ultimate vision is that all of our residents have the support and services they need to create and sustain a strong community in which to live and work safely.

Our Police Department, Public Works Department, and all of our employees have given themselves to this community without condition. I am proud to work with employees who care about making this a better place for our residents. We've come a long way, but there is still work left to do. We need your help in keeping our city clean, beautiful, and safe.

We need to stand together to keep moving forward. All of our elected officials and employees believe in building a stronger community, engaging in families, and success in children.

**James W. McGee**  
Mayor/City Administrator

# YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER



## Happy New Year Vinita Park Residents, Ward 1,2,3

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and a prosperous New Year. I would like to thank everyone who came out to support our Annual Breakfast with Santa event. Our children and parents had a wonderful time with one another while enjoying a hot breakfast with Santa. Bodine Aluminum Plant Manager Dan, Coordinator Stephanie, Tim, and their family, Sharon French with Perfect Hands, Shirley Kiefer, City Collector Jeanette Carridine, and Alderwoman Fairley helped serve the children bacon, sausage, biscuits, eggs with cheese, hash brown, donuts, orange juice, and passing out the gifts. Each child from ages 0-12 years old received gifts and talked to Santa. We also had 31 winners in the Breakfast with Santa Tablets and Toys Give Away 2016. The winners are:

### **Age 0-3**

Naomi Holler • Jaeleah Wesley  
Penny Skogen • Milia Stokes  
Leya Neal • Valene Allen  
Isaac Jones

### **Age 4-6**

Cody Smith • Bianca Robinson  
Kecia Johnson • Olivia Allen  
Jordan Trice • Elizabeth Money  
Jordan Sanders

### **Age 7-9**

Jada Wesley • Rihanna Hudson  
Ronnelle Johnson • Jeremiah Can  
Davian Davis • Janiya Stokes  
Chloe Stokes

### **Age 10-12**

KyRon Hill • Torron Chapman  
Robyn Brockmire • Tamara Daley  
Vaughn Valentine • Michael Hill  
Zackary Boling • Brock Hernandez  
Devin Muldrew

Congratulation to all winners.

I would like to express my appreciation and thank Ms. Nancy Mewes for all of her hard work. Ms. Mewes helped with the gift wrapping along with Zack, and Jeanette Carridine. I want to also thank Mayor McGee, the Elected Officials, Chief Swope, the North County Cooperative Police Department, Gerald

French, Public Works,, City Clerk Brent Bury, Deputy City Clerk Veronica Scoffield, Administrative Assistant Sabrina Bozeman, Finance Officer Sherry Sulwer, and George Buckner as Santa. Once again thank you for making Breakfast with Santa a huge success. All of the above mentioned people are what it takes to accomplish awesome things and make our community a better place to live, work, and play.

### **Christmas Lighting Contest**

1st place winner: Janet Simms  
2nd place winner: Nancy Mewes  
3rd place winner: Keisha Griffin

Congratulations to the winners of the Christmas Lighting Contest. Also I would like to thank the residents for getting into the holiday spirit and making the city beautiful and bright for Christmas. Once again I say thank you to Shirley Kiefer and Jeanette Carridine for judging the homes throughout the city on one of the coldest nights.

Our Mayor James W. McGee, how can I acknowledge him? Mayor James W McGee is a man who wears many hats, a man who's involvement and love for his community is more than life itself. He is someone who works around the clock to make our lives better. He supports all of the city events and works with the residents for the enhancement of the community. Mayor James W. McGee care about the future of our children's education and the well being of our Senior Citizens. Wow! What an awesome Mayor.

From my home to yours wishing you a joyous holiday season and a New Year of peace and happiness.

"Working hard for progress and stable leadership in our community."

### **President of the Board of Aldermen Alderwoman Celeste McGee, Ward III**

## Happy New Year Ward 2, Seniors, and the entire City of Vinita Park



I hope you all had a blessed Christmas, and are ready to say goodbye to 2016 and say hello to 2017. It was so nice to see all of you Seniors who attended the Christmas Luncheon on December 15th, 2016. We enjoyed the food and had a great time.

I would like to thank all of you who took the time out to pray for me while I was in the hospital, and now recovering at home. May

God bless all of you, and I hope and pray I will be able to do a lot of things with all of you during the New Year.

I would also like to thank our wonderful Mayor James McGee for doing a great job in the City of Vinita Park, our Chief of Police Tim Swope, and our North County Cooperative Police Department for keeping us safe by the day and by the night. Also I would like to thank our Public Works Director Gerald French and the Public Works Department for keeping our City clean.

I cant say enough about what a wonderful job Alderwoman Fairley has done for the Seniors during the time I was in the hospital and was unable to function. Anytime I asked her to come to my rescue she did it so I would like to say thank you so much Alderwoman Fairley, and God bless you..

Seniors, I will try to plan something later in the New Year. I will let you know at a later date.

"Leadership with integrity, accessible, committed, and honesty"

### **Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes, Ward 2**

## Hello Ward II



Happy New Year's to you and your family. I hope this year brings you nothing but joy and peace.

I would like to thank Alderwoman Stokes for hosting a wonderful Christmas party for all of the Seniors at the Signature Room. We had a wonderful time.

I would like to thank the Seniors who helped fill candy boxes for Santa Coming to Town.

Don't forget to attend the Board Meeting at City Hall at 6:30pm on every third Monday of the month to voice your opinion.

Remember to remove your trash cans away from the curb after trash pickup. We want to keep our community clean.

### **Alderwoman Wanda Fairley, Ward 2**

## Hello Ward 3



I would like to say Happy Holidays to you all, as we celebrate with families and friends.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to the Santa Coming to Town event. It was a huge success and a joy to see the smiles on the children faces. I would also

like to thank Gerald French and the Public Works Department for providing lunch for all of the Santa helpers, Detective Colten Brown as Santa, and also Mary Alvarado as Mrs. Claus. I look forward to another successful event this year with you all.

I would like to thank the North County Police Cooperative for doing a wonderful job in our City.

The Pavilion and Ball Diamond Reservations begins February 10th, 2017. However, Vinita Park will be closed during the months of May 2017 to June 2017 for park renovation. For more information please call City Hall at 314-428-7373.

### **Alderwoman Veronica Conner Ward III**

# PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

### **Permits**

Please come to City Hall to secure the proper permits PRIOR to having any work done to your property. Doing so will prevent unnecessary delays and fines. If you are not sure if you need a permit PLEASE call City Hall at 314-428-7373 to inquire.

### **Occupancy Inspection and Permit Required**

It shall be unlawful for any person or family to occupy or for any owner or agent to permit the occupant of any building or dwelling of a unit, until the inspection is complete and an occupancy permit has been issued. The occupancy permit shall not be issued until all violations on the property have been brought into compliance.

### **Snow-Snow-Snow**

Please be mindful of the NO PARKING areas during snow falls. Doing so will help us to promptly and SAFELY plow & salt our streets.

### **Yard Waste/Leaf Removal**

All Yard Waste should be placed in a designated yard waste can or brown yard bags for pickup. Yard Waste in plastic bags will NOT be picked up.

### **New Ordinances**

The Vinita Park Board of Aldermen recently passed several new ordinances that may apply to you. Provided below is a synopsis of each Ordinance.

**Ordinance 1286** (Occupancy Permits) – changes Section 510.120(B) of the Code of Ordinances relating to Occupancy Permits. The Ordinance adds a provision that prior to obtaining an Occupancy Permit all applicable service charges, fees, trash bills and real estate taxes have been paid in full. There were no other changes to the Ordinance and all other previous requirements for obtaining an Occupancy Permit still apply. City Hall staff will be verifying that the above referenced charges and fees are paid in full prior to issuing occupancy permits

**Ordinance 1288** (Trash Dumpster Enclosures) – requires trash dumpster enclosures to be constructed at commercial, and multi-family dwelling locations in the City of Vinita Park. This ordinance is immediately effective for all newly placed dumpsters in the City of Vinita Park. If a building has an existing dumpster, an enclosure must be built around the dumpster, following the specifications listed in the Ordinance, by November 1, 2016. Please be advised that a Building Permit must be obtained prior to starting construction of the enclosure.

**Ordinance 1289** (Rental Registration Licenses) —requires that any owner of a single-family residential rental property must annually register each property they own and obtain a Rental License from the City of Vinita Park. It also requires that prior to any rental license being issued all applicable service charges, fees, trash bills and real estate taxes are paid in full.

For any questions related to these new ordinances please contact City Hall at 314-428-7373.

### **Pet Tags**

The deadline for Pet Tags is February 10th, 2017

### **Reminder**

As we strive to keep our city Clean & Beautiful please do not place trash/yard waste/recycle receptacles on the curb before dusk of the evening before pick-up. Once the trash/yard waste/recycle receptacles have been emptied they should be removed from the curb the same day it was picked up. Failure to comply with the above could result in the resident receiving a summons to appear in court. Thank you for helping to keep OUR city Clean & Beautiful.

### **Littering**

Please help us keep the City of Vinita Park clean. Please do not litter in our parks, streets, and bike/walk trail. The City of Vinita Park has asked that you report any littering to City Hall/Police Department.

### **Gerald B. French Public Works Director**