

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

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.

Grass Cutting

Please remember to clean up after cutting grass. Do NOT leave grass in the street.

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

CITY HALL NEWS

Payments to City Hall

The forms of payments to the City of Vinita Park must be **cash, money orders, credit or debit card, or a business check.**

No personal checks will be accepted for payment. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Beyond Housing Home Repair Program

Beyond Housing, Inc. has been awarded a \$200,000 grant by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines and the St. Louis Office of Community Development to administer a home improvement program in Vinita Park. Grant funds will be used to assist low-income homeowners, seniors, and veterans in correcting code issues, safety and health related concerns, and make other needed home repairs. Income qualified households will receive a grant for home repair work that will be forgiven after five years. All work will be performed by licensed and insured contractors and inspected by Beyond Housing and the St. Louis County Department of Public Works. To find out more about the program and whether you qualify please call Beyond Housing at 932-1079 and ask for Michele Chapel.

BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

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

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

- July 4- 4th of July Parade 10:00am/Annual Youth Day at Vinita Park/Independence Day/City Hall Closed
- July 5-Municipal Court City of St. Ann 10:00am/Street Sweeping
- July 6- Street Sweeping
- July 7- Yard Waste Pickup/Senior Citizen Utility Tax Refund Begins
- July 11- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- July 13-Housing Court City of St. Ann 10:30am
- July 14- Yard Waste Pickup
- July 17- Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- July 18- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- July 19- Municipal Court City of St. Ann 10:00am
- July 21-Yard Waste Pickup
- July 23- Parent's Day
- July 25- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- July 28-Yard Waste 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

WARD 3

Celeste McGee

428-7373

Marcieta Reed

428-7373

WARD 4

Dan Clasby

276-5366

John Phillips

750-9403



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2017

VOLUME 2017:7

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to thank all of you for attending the Vinita Park and Vinita Terrace Ceremony. Vinita Terrace is now Ward 4. We had eleven honorees and it was a huge success. We are asking all of our residents to bring your property up to code and keep our city clean. Please cut your grass, bring your trash cans in after trash pickup, and move your vehicles on Street Sweeping days.

Our North County Police Cooperative received the Public Safety and Community Policing Award from the Municipal League of Metro St. Louis. Our Police Department is doing a wonderful job and we should encourage them to keep up the good work.

I would like to thank Alderwoman McGee, and Alderwoman Reed from Ward III for attending the Missouri Municipal League Elected Officials Training Conference with me last month in Columbia, MO. The conference was an overview of Municipal Government, Conducting City Business, Budgeting, Sunshine Law Liability and Risk, Communicating the Value of Public Service, Local Revenue Sources, Economic Development, Roberts Rule of Order, and Missouri Municipal League Services. The conference was very resourceful in providing ways to run our city more efficient and effective

I would like to say congratulations to Mahlia Pryor who was selected from Washington Elementary School to participate in the STEM Program. Mahlia will be participating in the National Youth Leadership Forum. The competition will be in Chicago, Illinois. Mahlia will also have the opportunity to explore a future career in these exciting STEM pathways, engineering, study of medicine, and also detective work.

The City's five budgets for 2017 and 2018 are Operating, Capital, Road, Sewer, and Park/Storm Water. The proposed itemized budgets are as follows: Projected Operating

Budget is \$4,757,412 and Projected General Revenue is \$ 5,054,432 with \$297,020 in reserves. Projected Capital Improvements Outlay Budget is \$315,025 and Projected revenue is \$359,099 with \$44,074 in reserves. Projected Road Budget is \$269,323 and Capital Outlay is \$105,282 with \$164,041 in reserve. Projected Sewer Lateral Budget is \$353,031 and Projected Sewer Lateral Repairs is \$25,500 with \$327,531 in reserves. Projected Parks and Storm Water Budget is \$225,105 and Projected Expenditures is \$213,983 with \$11,122 in reserves. The City Overall Reserves is \$843,788. Improvements to City, Police Department, Public Works and Parks Department are as follows: one 17 inch computer monitor, 10 new leased police cars, 10 computers for the police cars, 10 bullet proof vests, 100 Taser cartridges for training, 20 new Taser cartridges for Police Service, \$21,600 in Police and Public Works Tires, \$10,500 in car parts, three street repairs: Northbury Lane, Mennet Avenue, and Washington Avenue, Wash Station for Public Works, Accreditation for Police and Public Works, demolition of six homes, scan tool for Mechanic, All Data Subscription, sink with eyewash station, snow blower, lawn mower, one pick-up truck, utilities, trash and yard waste pick up, parking lot repairs, fence for Police Department, and park renovation. We have three city parks that are named after the Mayors who served the City of Vinita Park. We have Mayor Charles Forrester from 1966 to 1983, Mayor Virginia A. Bira from 1984 to 2010, and Mayor James W. McGee from 2010 to present. I would like to thank all of the Mayors for bringing the city to where it is today.

All of our elected officials and employees believe in building a stronger community, engaging families, and successful in children.

James W. McGee
Mayor/City Administrator

YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER



Hello Vinita Park Residents Happy 4th of July to the residents of Vinita Park

I attended the Missouri Municipal League Elected Officials Training in Columbia MO, June 8th and 9th, 2017. This training conference focused on understanding how to do Budgets, Conducting City Business, Liability and Risk, Overview of Municipal Government, and the Sunshine Law.

What's the Sunshine Law? It is a public policy of this State that meetings, records, votes, actions, and deliberations of the public governmental bodies be open to the public unless otherwise provided by Law.

This Law sets out the specific instances when a meeting, record, or vote may be closed, while stressing the exceptions are to be strictly interpreted to promote the public policy of openness.

I would like to take this time out to thank Mayor McGee and the Board of Aldermen for giving me this opportunity to continue to serve this community by attending these classes. As the Board President I'm committed to learning as much as I can about the policies and procedures. By learning these policies and procedures it helps our city make it to the next level of government. (Thanks again)

Busting in Blooming Garden Contest

1st Place Winner:

Mr. James Ulett 8310 Washington

2nd Place Winner:

Mr. and Mrs. James Hurt 8226 Madison

3rd Place Winner:

Mrs. Betty Hermann 8207 Buchanan

I would like to thank all residents who entered the contest and to congratulate the winners. I would like to thank our judges for doing a great job in judging the homes. Ms. Shirley Kiefer our (Head Judge), Ms. Dianne Miller-Bryant is one of our newest judges. Our supporting judges are Mrs. Sharon French, and Alderwoman Stokes.

Save this date: The Vinita Park Annual 4th of July Parade starts at St. Rita's Catholic Church parking lot at 10:00am and our Annual Youth Day starts right after. Popsicle and Co. will be here, plus Pony Express will be bringing ponies to ride, games, prizes, and refreshments.

The City of Vinita Park is doing a Historical history book dealing with the merger of both cities, if you have a story to tell about living in Vinita Park or Vinita Terrace please submit it to City Hall with your name and address as soon as possible. Thank you.

Encouraging Words

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game"

Working hard for progress and stable leadership. PS. Please keep Alderwoman Ora Mae Strokes in your prayers.

President of Board of Aldermen Alderwoman Celeste McGee Ward III

Hello Ward 3

Hello my name is Marcieta Reed. I am the newly elected Alderwoman for Ward 3. I am grateful that I can be of service to you. I'm here to serve our community with any concerns and suggestions you may have. I look forward to serving you.

Alderwoman Marcieta Reed Ward III



Dear Neighbors of Vinita Park,

I hope you are enjoying your summer.

As the weather warms up,

be aware of the effect of Heat on your body. The following safety tips can help prevent heat illness.

Protecting yourself:

- Drink lots of water, about one cup every 15 minutes.
 - Avoid direct sunlight, or use sunscreen when working in direct sunlight.
 - Take regular cooldown breaks.
 - Wear light-colored, loose clothing.
 - Use fans to allow proper ventilation.
- Responding to heat stroke:
- Watch out for others who start to

show signs of heat stroke, such as semi consciousness, unconsciousness, unresponsiveness, or confusion.

- Move the person to a cooler environment.
- Reduce the person's body temperature with cool, wet cloths.

Yours truly,

Alderman Rich Redel Ward I



Hello Ward 2

I hope you all have a wonderful 4th of July. Don't forget to come to our parade or to participate in the parade.

Please watch out for our children this summer.

Indian Trail Library will be providing free lunch to our children 18years old and under beginning June 5th through August 11th, 2017 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm.

There are Reading Skills and Speed Reading Programs available for children and adults. For more information please call 1-800-903-0162.

If you're searching for summer fun you can find it at Blue Print www.blueprint4summer.com.

Senior Citizen Tax Utility Refund begins July 7th through August 25th, 2017. Please bring your bills to City Hall between the hours of 8:30am -5:00pm.

Alderwoman Wanda Fairley Ward II



Hello Ward 2

I hope everyone enjoyed the 4th of July holiday, I certainly enjoyed the holiday.

Attention Seniors, Indian Trails Branch Library will have a Senior Movie Night "A

Raisin in the Sun" on Thursday July, 13th, 2017 at 6:30pm. We will not have a Senior Luncheon during this month of July. We will have an outing this month. We will be going to see a movie at the 24:1 Cinema at 6755 Page Ave. in Pagedale, MO. If you would like to attend let the caller know when you receive your phone call. We will try to go on Tuesday July 18th, 2017 at 12:30pm.

We would like for as many of us to ride our city bus. Alderwoman Fairley will drive us all. You should receive a phone call on or around July 7th, 2017. The caller will provide the name of the movie. I hope to see you all at the movies on July 18th, 2017. Our next Senior Luncheon will be on August 10th, 2017 at 12:00pm at City Hall. You will receive a phone call prior to the luncheon.

I would like to thank the President of the Board Alderwoman McGee for doing a wonderful job preparing the history of Vinita Park for the Consolidation Ceremony of Vinita Park and Vinita Terrace. Mayor McGee is doing a wonderful job in our city. Mayor McGee works day and night for our city. I want to thank Chief Swope and the North County Cooperative who keeps our city safe day and night. I also want to thank Gerald French and the Public Works Department for doing a wonderful job and keeping our city clean.

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

Alderwoman Ora M. Stokes Ward II

Hello Ward 4

City of Vinita Park formally the Village of Vinita Terrace. Now that has a good sound to it. Alderman John Phillips and I Alderman Dan Clasby have been selected to be the Aldermen for the residents of Ward 4.

We have the Celebration of 4th of July coming up and Vinita Park as always will start with a parade. This year it will begin at the parking lot of St. Rita's Church. The north parking lot is going to be used for those walking in the parade and the south parking lot for the vehicles in the parade. Residents of Ward 4 primarily the children are asked to walk up to St. Rita's Church and to use the cross walk at Washington St. to be safe. The parade will not go through Ward 4 because of the traffic flow. Any of our Senior Citizens who wish to be picked up by the city bus should contact me or Alderman Phillips to schedule a pickup for transportation to the park.

Street sweeping will begin in July 2017. The sweeping on Wednesday will be on the south side of the street and on Thursday the north side of the street. Public Works are going to be placing signs to limit parking due to street sweeping for the scheduled days.

Feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions or comments.

**Alderman Dan Clasby H-314-863-7585
C-314-276-5366**

**Alderman John Phillips H-314-750-9403
Ward 4**

POLICE DEPT. NEWS

The consolidation with Vinita Terrace hasn't changed anything for the police department. We were already providing patrol to Vinita Terrace and continue to do so. We have received numerous complaints of dangerous driving in the Hanley/Page area, along with all of Page and all of Midland. We will continue to diligently enforce traffic offenses in an effort to keep the streets safe for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Several members of the police department have volunteered to transform the old Vinita Terrace City Hall building into a facility used to house our Bureau of Criminal Investigations. New offices have been built and we are almost completed with the flooring. Special thanks to the Mayor and Board for approving the purchase of the necessary products to get this done as economically as possible. Also, thanks to the Home Depot of Ferguson in providing the product at a greatly reduced cost. We should be completed in the next couple weeks and will have a "Grand Opening" announcement soon.

Captain Farmer and several officers took a youth group to Six Flags this week. Approximately 20 kids and chaperones attended and had a great time. Thanks to all of the officers who volunteered for this great event. Many more to come.

Lastly, the CO-OP recently received the St. Louis Metro Municipal Leagues' "Muni Award" for outstanding community relations and community outreach. All of the officers with the CO-OP deserve praise for making this accomplishment possible. They have worked very hard, often in difficult circumstances, while continuing to create and strengthen our bonds with the public. Well done all!!!

Chief Tim Swope North County Police Cooperative

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.

Street Sweeper

A Street sweeping will be the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month. Street sweeper will operate from April 1st through November 1st.

Tall Weeds & Grass Prohibited

Chapter 215. Nuisances Article III. Weeds, High Grass, Noxious Plants, Rank Weeds, Thickets or Other Vegetation

Section 215.110. Weeds, High Grass, Noxious Plants, Rank Weeds, Thickets or Other Vegetation

Failure To Keep Weeds, High Grass, Noxious Plants, Rank Weeds, Thickets 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 seven (7) inches, it shall be deemed a public nuisance. It is important to keep front and rear yards cut because tall grass and weeds:

- Reduce adjacent property values and prevent neighbors from having full enjoyment of their property during spring and summer months.
- Attract vermin and insects creating a potential health hazard.
- Cause hay fever and other allergy problems.
- Create a potential fire hazard.
- Detract from the overall beauty and desirability of the City.

The City is authorized enter upon property to cut tall grass and weeds on property and charge the owner for the cost of cutting as well as an escalating fine.

The inspector will only send one notice; all subsequent notices will lead to the city to cut without further notice.

Yard Waste

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. Public Works will only pickup limbs that are knocked down during a storm and placed on the curb within 72 hours after the storm.