

# NEWS FROM CITY HALL

## Parks & Recreation

### Operation Excel Basketball League

Once again, Vinita Park will be participating in the annual Operation Excel Basketball League. Recruiting for the basketball league will begin in January and we will begin playing by April 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be five divisions with children and teenagers ages 8-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-18, and 19 plus. Each team will play 10 games, not including the playoffs. There will also be a 3-on-3 tournament before the league starts which will be a fundraiser at Viking Hall.

### Indian Trails Library March Events Wednesday, March 5, 2:00 p.m.

Homeschool Explorations: Masquerade See behind the disguise! Discover the world of masks and make one to take home with you.

### Thursday, March 6, 7:00 p.m.

Pajama Story Time - Get ready for bed with songs and story books. All ages. Registration recommended.

### Friday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.

Lap Time - Join us for your favorite songs, finger plays and stories. Stay afterwards for our popular playtime for babies and their caretakers. Ages 0-2.

### Saturday, March 8, 10:00 a.m.

Art @ Your Library: The Parrot Pirate King - Dastardly Gene and Gentle Henry need the audience's help in trivia, games and fun. There is a lot to do and cheer about at this lively family play that teaches what is inside a person is what counts and that a person's differences or disabilities can actually be their gifts. Recommended for ages 2-12.

### Tuesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Teen Tech: Minecraft - Come play Minecraft on our Library server. Beginners welcome. Ages 12-18. Registration required.

### Thurs., March 27, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Teen Tech: Stop Motion Animation Learn how to tell stories through stop motion animation using a digital camera and computer software. Dry erase markers, clay, and other objects to animate will be provided. Feel free to bring your own materials and stories. Ages 12-18. Registration required.  
**Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19 & 26, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.**

Creative Cardio Aerobics - Join us for an energetic, upbeat aerobics class that is going to get you moving! This workout is perfect for everyone at any fitness level. Workout and tone your entire body doing low and high impact moves. Ages 12 and up. Registration recommended.

### Message from Your Tax Collector Jeanette Carridine

As your Tax Collector, my goal is to collect all business taxes and to plan and organize the budget, set and implement policies which affect our City and State government. I am constantly reminding myself of the responsibility of managing millions of tax dollars for our City which is why I am always researching the newest and innovative technologies to help manage our tax dollars.

The success of our City depends on how much tax revenue is being collected. In the past two years, I have collected over \$2 Million in taxes. I sometimes have to exercise tough leadership skills to collect the taxes from our local businesses so it takes a strong-minded person to collect the City's taxes. I would like to thank the Board of Aldermen for supporting and helping me to get the necessary training I needed to do my job as the City's Tax Collector. I am honest and dedicated to collecting the city's taxes and I am proud to say I am a resident of Vinita Park. Thank you for believing in me.

### Your Tax Collector, Jeanette Blanks-Carridine

## Community Events

### Women Living Whole

Women Living Whole welcomes you to attend one of our next events:

"Being Seen as a Professional" - This session will cover interviewing skills and resume writing. Interviewing is a skill that most people are uncomfortable with and we want to provide you with tips that can help that anxiety. With a strong resume and great interviewing skills you can have the opportunity to open doors. Come to this session and get some advice from a person in the Human Resources field. Contact Jeanine Williams at 314-359-4200. **Date:**



Saturday, March 8, 2014 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. **Place:** Vinita Park City Hall, Meeting Room, 8374 Midland Ave., St. Louis, MO 63114

### "Physically Fit and Loving It"

Learning to workout can be difficult. Women Living Whole wants to help you get started on living a healthy life. Come talk with Lieutenant Clay Farmer of Vinita Park Police Department and learn how to kick start your workout regimen. He will give you some tips on eating better and how to do some basic moves that can help you get started at home. No expensive gym fees should discourage you; you can get started in your own living room, bedroom, or basement. Come out and join us! Contact Jeanine Williams at 314-359-4200. **Date:** Saturday, April 12, 2014 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. **Place:** Vinita Park City Hall, Meeting Room, 8374 Midland Ave., St. Louis, MO 63114

## Some Important Dates

- March 5 – Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room
- March 8 – Women Living Whole Event, City Hall
- March 9 – Daylight Savings Begins
- March 13 – Senior Luncheon, 12:00 Noon, City Hall
- March 14 – Movie Night, City Hall Court Room
- March 19 – Municipal Court 10:00 a.m., City Hall Court Room
- April 2 – Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room
- April 8 – Municipal Elections, City Hall
- April 12 – Women Living Whole Event, City Hall



**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  
426-5529

### COLLECTOR

Jeanette Carridine  
428-7373

### BOARD OF ALDERMEN

#### WARD 1

Brian Gremaud  
922-0885

Richard Redel  
368-2329

#### WARD 2

Wanda Fairley  
427-8587

Ora Stokes  
429-6863

#### WARD 3

Celeste McGee  
426-5529

Dennis Hayden  
276-6188



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2014 VOLUME 2014:03 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

## A Few Words From The Mayor

### MAYOR GOES THE EXTRA MILE FOR OUR CHILDREN

We are fighting extremely hard for the Normandy School District. We've traveled to Jefferson City several times to talk to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Legislators. We presented a detailed plan for the Normandy School District to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education which made a great impact. The DESE created a financial board to oversee the \$5 million for the Normandy School District. On February 25, 2014, Vinita Park took 30 members of our Boys & Girls Club to meet with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, JC Penny Building. Our Boys & Girls Club made a great impression on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's decision to not close the Normandy School District.

Also, the Normandy High School Choir will be traveling to New York to perform at Carnegie Hall. I would like to extend congratulations to them.

In other news, the City of Vinita Park has received a \$500,000 home improvement grant sponsored by Beyond Housing to help our low-income residents repair their homes and get them up to city code. We have already had 9 of our residents to sign up for the grant. You can pick up an application for the home

improvement grant at City Hall or contact Nicole Wiseman with Beyond Housing at 314-932-1079.

Vinita Park has teamed up with the Redbird Rookies Association at Beyond Housing. The Redbird Rookies Association was formed by Cardinal Care to help children learn the game of baseball. They provide uniforms, gloves, bats, baseballs, and other equipment FREE OF CHARGE. They host other field events and programs such as health fairs, jazz concerts, and reading incentives. Please contact Terry Wilson at 314-862-0639 to sign up your children ages 5-13 for this great program. The deadline is April 1, 2014.

We have teamed up with the St. Louis Moolah Shrine to get free tickets to their Circus events from March 20<sup>th</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup>. Contact City Hall at 314-428-7373 for more information.

We're asking that you continue to work together to make Vinita Park a strong community by engaging our families and successful children. Thank you!

### James W. McGee Mayor/City Administrator





# YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER

## Happy St. Patrick's Day Ward 1, 2, 3 Residents

I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all new residents and businesses that have relocated to our community. I have had an opportunity to meet some of you and hope to meet others real soon. I encourage our residents to get involved in our community by participating in the monthly board meetings held every third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

### Job Fair Information

The St. Louis Job Fair and Career Fair will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at the Embassy Suites Hotel from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. You will meet with hiring managers from local, national, and Fortune 500 companies for free at the St. Louis Job Fair. A few tips for success: Dress professionally, bring multiple copies of your resume, and keep an open mind.

### Embassy Suites Hotel 2 Convention Center Plaza St. Charles, MO 63303

The St. Louis Ballpark Village is accepting applications. You can go online to [stlouisballparkvillage.com](http://stlouisballparkvillage.com) for more information.

### Agencies for Energy & Rental Help

St. Vincent DePaul (314) 531-2183  
Urban League (314) 388-9840  
St. Augustine (314) 385-1934 (Bring in \$25 and it will be matched. Must bring lease or rental agreement)  
St. Jude (314) 428-2262  
New Life (314) 421-3020  
St. Jane Center (314) 383-6539  
Housing Resource Center (314) 802-5444  
Salvation Army (314) 423-7012  
Catholic Charities (314) 371-4357  
John Knox Church (314) 921-5833

### The National Kidney Foundation Walk 2014

I will be walking in the Annual National Kidney Foundation Walk on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 8:30 am at the Saint Louis University Campus. Our Mayor James McGee and our Tax Collector

Jeanette Blanks-Carridine will also be participating in the walk. The Kidney Walk is the nation's largest walk to help fight kidney disease. For more information, go to [kidney.org](http://kidney.org).

### Words of Motivation

The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential. These are the keys that will unlock the door of personal excellence.  
-Confucius

Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Expand your potential and evaluate your skills with confidence in your own powers. You can be successful and happy.  
-Norman Vincent Peale

Learn from the past, set vivid, detailed goals for the future, and live in the only moment of time over which you have any control: Now.  
-Dennis Waitley

Always do your best in whatever you try to do. Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

-Thomas A. Edison

Constantly working  
hard for progress and  
stable leadership for  
our Community!

**Celeste McGee**  
Alderwoman, Ward 3



### Hello Ward 3 and Vinita Park Residents

We have decided to stick with the previous rental prices for the park reservations. The previous fees of \$20 for residents and \$30 for non-residents are still in effect. However, we did approve the following changes:

- All \$100 deposits will be deposited instead of held and the renter will be refunded their deposit in the form of a Vinita Park check.
- Any bounced or bad check will lose the reservation. The reservation will be given to the

next person on the list for that date.

- Children under the age of 8 will require adult supervision.

Thank you for your support of Vinita Park.

**Dennis Hayden**  
Alderman, Ward 3



### Hello Ward 2 and the Entire City of Vinita Park

I hope it's safe to say that Old Man Winter is almost gone; I am truly ready for Spring. I can't hardly wait to see the beautiful flower gardens here in Vinita Park.

Sympathy goes out to our family members who have lost love ones during the month of February. Mrs. Emma K. Robinson on Eads Avenue lost her son and Ms. Donelle Malveaux on Gulf Drive lost her brother. Let us pray for each of these families during these difficult times.

Our first Senior Luncheon will be on March 13, 2014 at 12:00 Noon at City Hall. I look forward to seeing all of you there. You will be receiving a phone call regarding the luncheon so that you can sign up. We don't want to leave anyone out.

### Food for Thought:

When I'm thinking about an answer while others are talking, I'm not listening.

"Leadership with Integrity – Accessible, Committed and Honest"

**Ora Mae Stokes**  
Alderwoman, Ward 2



# PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

## No Parking

We have purchased new 'NO PARKING' signs to be placed throughout the city. These new signs will specify which day and time no parking will be allowed, thus allowing full access to clean each street. Once the 'NO PARKING' signs are in place, there will be a NO TOLERANCE policy for those who do not obey these signs. The NO TOLERANCE policy will apply to current and future 'SNOW PLOWING' signs.

## Storm Drains

At the request of MSD, all of our storm water inlets have been marked as a reminder that only rain water should go in the drain. In years past, it was common practice for residents to sweep debris along the curb into the drains. Some went as far as to dump their waste oil. The new markers are there to remind us that what goes into these drains eventually ends up as our drinking water in our homes.

## Spring Planting

As we approach the Spring season, please remember to contact Missouri One Call System (Dig Rite) at 1-800-344-7483 before digging in your yard.

## Grass/Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will resume in April 2014. Please call Republic Services at 636-947-5959 for any questions and/or concerns.

## Reminder from Public Works

In an effort to keep our city clean and beautiful, it is sometimes necessary for our city inspector to issue Housing Code Violations. It is the inspector's job to cite those who are in violation. This is not meant as an attack on our residents but as a firm reminder of that needs to be addressed by a resident in order to comply with our housing codes. Our inspector will work with you and may even extend your time frame to

complete the necessary work. The work MUST still be completed. Failure to respond to your notice unfortunately results in an appointed court date. If this happens, the issue is out of the inspector's hands and into the courts which could result in possible fines and/or charges. So please, respond as soon as possible.

**Gerald B. French**  
Public Works Director



# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

## Community Update

The Police Department continues to work with the community in making this a safer place to reside. Whenever you need us for an emergency, dial 911. If you have a need to speak with the police department in person, but it is not an emergency, please contact dispatch at 314-428-1212. They will send a car via radio dispatch.

We have seen an increase in speeding violations and will be concentrating on problem areas to help keep the streets safe for everyone. We also want to remind everyone to park on the right hand side of the roadway, but not on the sidewalks.

We welcome new employees, Police Clerk Suzanne Auld and Police Reserve Officer Dave Schnorbus. They are both

eagerly tending to their duties and it is great to have them as part of the team.

The Police Department will be hosting its next movie night on Friday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m. The function will be held inside the City Hall Court Room. Popcorn and refreshments will be served. Mayor McGee will also be there to hand out free tickets for the St. Louis Moolah Shrine Circus to all who attend.

I hope to see everyone on March 14th!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Chief Swope at 314-428-7373. If it is an emergency situation however, always dial 911.

Sincerely,  
**Chief Tim Swope**

