

tracting the work together, the group saved 35% compared to what similar municipalities paid for inventories in recent years.

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.

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



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016 VOLUME 2016:03 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

CITY HALL NEWS

Payments to City Hall

The forms of payments to the City of Vinita Park must be **cash, money orders, 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 nonperishable 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-inplace
- 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 water proof, 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 coldweather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a coldweather 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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 1- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- March 2 –Municipal Court 10:00am
- March 4- Yard Waste Pickup
- March 8- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- March 10- Senior Luncheon City Hall 12:00pm Noon
- March 11-Yard Waste Pickup
- March 13- Daylight Saving Time
- March 15- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- March 21- Town Hall Meeting 6:00pm, Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- March 22- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- March 25-Yard Waste Pickup
- March 27- Easter Sunday
- March 29- 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
395-7028

Ora Stokes
429-6863

WARD 3

Celeste McGee
426-5529

Veronica Conner
684-9336

The City of Vinita Park and Village of Vinita Terrace are jointly proposing a consolidation between our communities, which are immediately adjacent and contiguous to each other. Our two communities and our residents would greatly benefit from the boundary commission agreeing to this voluntary consolidation. The proposal has the unanimous support of our respective boards and citizens. In the 2010 United State Census, Vinita Park had a population of 1,880 residents and Vinita Terrace a population of 277. Following our proposed consolidation, the community would continue to be known as Vinita Park.

With the passage of Senate Bill 5, it was apparent that the Missouri General Assembly wanted smaller communities in St. Louis County to consolidate to better provide essential services. Several Mayors and Alderpersons from multiple municipalities, plus Pat Kelly, of St. Louis County Municipal League traveled to Jefferson City, Cole County Court for the hearing. Mr. Pittinsky presented summary arguments against Senate Bill 5 as follows:

1. Senate Bill 5 is a 'special rule' as it 'narrow' targets only St. Louis County. Only St. Louis County Municipalities are subject to the 12.5% cap, the rest of state can keep 20%. Only St. Louis County Municipalities have the burden of the annual audit, CALEA or State certification, and more.
2. Hancock violation-no funding was allocated by the State to pay for any of the new burdens placed on St. Louis Municipalities.
3. Separation of Powers violation-will instruct Department Of Revenue (Executive Branch) to instruct the Circuit Court to revoke the muni's municipal court authority. Only the Supreme Court should make such a determination, not the auditor or Department of Revenue employee.
4. The State Constitution Article 5, Section 2716 gives to munis with less than 400,000 population the absolute right to enforce their

own laws. Senate Bill 5 usurps that right. The judge asked each side to submit within 15 days the declaratory judgment each wants him to sign and he will do his best to rule quickly. I hope this means we will have some kind of resolution to this problem very soon.

We also are working on consolidation of our courts that could save the City of Vinita Park about \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year. We have scheduled a town hall meeting to discuss the merger with Vinita Terrace and the consolidation of our courts and to answer any questions you may have for Monday March 21st, 2016 at 6:00pm at City Hall.

The City of Vinita Park is in partnership with United 4 Children, the 24:1 Early Childhood Learning Center at 6633 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive St. Louis, MO 63133. The center will have a ribbon cutting on March 22, 2016 at 5:30pm signifying this important moment for the 24:1 communities. This center provides the children with necessary skills in order to meet the Missouri Early Learning Standards. Please contact Gail Wulff at 314-383-3252 for more information.

I would like to thank all of the adult residents for attending the 24:1 Cinema Saturday February 13th, 2016 to see "Do the Right Thing". I hope everyone understood the message within. I would also like to thank our North County Police Cooperative for taking 70 to 80 of our North County Cooperative children to 24:1 Cinema to see Kung Fu Panda 3 Saturday on February 20th, 2016.

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



Hello Vinita Park residents

On the behalf of the 3rd Ward Alderwoman Celeste McGee, I would like to expand a hearty welcome to all new residents and businesses that have relocated to our community. I have 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 our city government, through our monthly Board Meeting (Regular Board Meeting, the third Monday of each month 6:30pm). I hope to see you there.

Save these Dates:

St. Louis Career Fairs & Job Fairs
Double Tree by Hilton St. Louis West Port
1973 Craig shire Rd 63146

Here's a list of upcoming Job Fairs

March 2, 2016 from 11-2:00pm St. Louis
Career Fair Attend Our Live Hiring
Event Double Tree Westport
1973 Craigshire Rd.

Thursday March 10, 2016 from
10:00-2:00pm

Thursday March 30, 2016 from
10:00-2:00pm

Wednesday May 25, 2016 from
10:00-2:00pm

Thursday June 9, 2016 from
10:00-2:00pm

Thursday September 15, 2016 from
10:00-2:00pm

December 1, 2016 from 10:00-2:00pm
Sponsors of our St. Louis Career Fair
AAA, Whelan Security, Garden View,
Myphix, Medical West, ATT, Macy's ITT,
UCP, LGC.

The City of Vinita Park is having its Annual Easter Egg Hunt March 19th, 2016 at Charles Forrester Park 10:00am (Age 0-12). Come join the fun in watching all the children race to pick up the Easter Egg, it's a sight to see. This is a life time of moments that you all can share memories by taking pictures in the park, and having a lot of fun with your children, family, and friends. I hope to see you there

St. Louis YouthBuild

YouthBuild is an alternative school/pre-apprenticeship program that is sponsored by the Parent Child Center and Bridging Families to Communities and Beyond. St. Louis YouthBuild provides young men and women with adult education and literacy preparation assistance.

Who is Eligible?

Unemployed, out of school men and women who are drug free, ready for positive change, and are 18 to 24 years of age. YouthBuild is a program that is grant funded whole, or in part by the Department of Labor (96%) of funding. We build more than houses, we build lives at 93 North Oaks Plaza St. Louis MO, 63121. For more information call 314-261-0202 or EEOC phone 1-800-669-6820.

On February 5, 2016 I attended the Senate Bill 5 lawsuit hearing in Jefferson City, MO.

Words of Encouragement

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can". Character can't be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved. (Helen Keller)

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

**Alderwoman Celeste McGee
Ward III**

Hello Seniors and Citizens of Vinita Park



It's my pleasure to wish you all a Happy Easter. I also want to wish you all the best as you celebrate the risen savior.

On February 5th 2016 Mayor James McGee, Alderwoman Celeste McGee, and I traveled to Jefferson City, Missouri for the Senate Bill 5 Court Hearing, which was very impressive. As we all know the Mayor would like for the residents to get involved in activities that goes on in our city. There are several activities spearheaded by an Aldermen or a city worker. Take a look at

your newsletter every other month all of our names and telephone numbers are listed on the front page, or you can contact City Hall at 314-428-7373. We are currently looking for residents to be a part of the Advisory Committee, Safety Committee, Cadet Program for our youth, Citizens Police Academy for adults, Senior Citizen Program, and Boys and Girls Club. So come on out and get involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

I would like to thank all of our residents and seniors who attended the 24:1 Cinema on Saturday February 13th, 2016 to see "Do The Right Thing".

Seniors

Our first Annual Senior Luncheon will be March 10, 2016 at City Hall at 12:00pm. You will receive a phone call so let the caller know if you had a birthday in January, February, or March. I look forward to seeing you all there. Also I would like to plan a day for us to go shopping so think of a day and a place that will be good for you seniors.

"Patience is the ability to keep your motor idling when you feel like stripping your gears"

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

**Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes,
Ward 2**

Hello Ward II



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

Vinita Park has lots of fun things to do this year. We have our Annual Easter Egg Hunt coming up on March 19th, 2016 at Charles Forrester Park at 10:00am. Please come to City Hall and sign your children up ages 0-12 years old on March 7th, 2016 between the hours of 8:30am-5:00pm. The last day to sign up for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be March 18, 2016. I hope you can come out and bring the children. If it rains on the scheduled day I will reschedule for March 26th, 2016 same time and location. The flyers for this event will

go out the second week of March as a reminder and again I hope to see you there.

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.

**Alderwoman Wanda Fairley
Ward II**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

MORTGAGE FRAUD!!!! One of our fine residents has been a victim of mortgage fraud. This is a national issue. Please make sure you check out anyone who is proposing to adjust your mortgage. Make sure they have proper license and credentials. As always, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Additionally, if you receive emails promising you any type of money or gifts, you should question the source. Never give up your Social Security Number, Date of Birth or any other personal information. Be careful!!! The police department is very proud to say we once again lowered the number of burglaries in Vinita Park. Our number for 2014 was already at a very low 22. We were able to

cut that number by more than half in 2015, a total of 9. This is due to increased patrols, better investigations and the assistance of the public. Thank you for helping us provide quality service to the community. We have all heard about Senate Bill 5 and the changes it may bring in our police techniques. Rest assured, we will continue to vigorously enforce traffic laws to make sure the public is safe on the streets of Vinita Park. We are also teaming with area law enforcement agencies to help us bring better and more efficient service to you. Thanks to the St. Ann Police Department for working side by side with us. They already provide great dispatching services and prisoner transport services at a much

reduced cost to us. We also partner with St. Ann on critical investigations and high visibility patrols. We will continue to work with St. Ann and others to keep streamlining and bringing better service to our citizens.

Lastly, we held our first Movie Night of 2016 last weekend at the 24:1 Cinema. We had over 80 people attend the movie, Kung Fu Panda 3, and we all had a great time Thanks to the Mayor and Board for helping out with this endeavor. It was awesome!!!!

Sincerely,

Tim Swope, Chief of Police

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

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

24:1 MUNICIPAL TREE GRANTS PROMOTE COLLABORATION, SAVE MONEY PRESS RELEASE

This year the City of Vinita Park was on of 12, 24:1 Area Municipalities to receive an

award of up to \$10,000 from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) through its Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) cost-share grant program. Beyond Housing wrote grants in coordination with 10 of the 12 municipalities. 24:1 refers to the 24 communities within the boundaries of the Normandy Schools collaborative geography for one vision of strong communities, engaged families and successful children. 24:1 is a place-based community initiative convened and facilitated by Beyond Housing. As part of this initiative, a majority of the 24:1 area municipalities are working together to provide more effective and efficient service delivery.

As a result, this year up to \$70,000 is available to be invested in the following 10 municipalities – Bellerive Acres, Cool Valley, Glen Echo Park, Hanley Hills, Pagedale, Pine Lawn, Upland Park, Velda Village Hills, Vinita Park, and Vinita Terrace. MDC funds are matched with recipient funds to improve trees in the community, resulting in a total investment of close to \$100,000. This grant will be used to

strategically remove roughly 160 hazardous and critically dangerous trees on municipal property.

TRIM is a competitive grant that helps communities provide safe and healthy trees. Investment in trees provides lasting improvements in cleaning the air, soil and water. The participating municipalities jointly bid the work to make the state and local tax dollars go farther. This year, Beyond Housing estimates the municipalities saved close to \$60,000 by bidding the work together.

This is the second year that these 10 municipalities have received such a grant. Last year, Beyond Housing received a Collaborative Tree TRIM grant of \$25,000 that paid for professional tree inventories for all 10 of these municipalities. This was the largest grant ever given by the state for this kind of work and never before had so many municipalities collaborated together on one grant. By con-