



# VINITA PARK CITIZEN NEWSLETTER

∞ PUBLISHED BY ∞

NOVEMBER 2016

VOLUME 2016:11

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

## WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

### CITY HALL

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

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### MAYOR

James W. McGee  
428-7373

#### COLLECTOR

Jeanette Carridine  
428-7373

#### ALDERMEN

##### WARD I

Brian Gremaud  
922-0885

Richard Redel  
368-2329

##### WARD II

Wanda Fairley  
667-8080

Ora Stokes  
429-6863

##### WARD III

Celeste McGee  
428-7373

Veronica Conner  
684-9336

I would like to thank all of the residents for participating in the survey to help run our City more efficiently, effectively, and serve our residents better. The survey showed we are doing well with improving our streets, new equipment, sidewalks, Senior Citizen Program, and the Boys and Girls Club including activities such as Football Team, Basketball Team, Reading Club, Chess Club, and Tutoring. The survey also showed that we need to improve our Code Enforcement. This improvement includes, home repairs, repairing garages, and improving our city parks.

I would also like to thank all the Elected Officials and staff that attended the 2016 Annual Missouri Municipal League Conference. It was very educational and informative. The topics discussed were Public Works Contracts, Investing Your Cash In A Changing Interest Rate Environment, Flying Drones, Smart Phones, Economic Development for Elected Officials, Critical Changes in Municipal Police Department and Courts, The Sunshine Law and Technology, Integrated Plan For The Environment, Personnel Law, Local Government Through My Eyes, When The Levy Breaks; Things You Never Thought Of (but wish you had), Cool Technologies for Muni's, Basics of Parliamentary Procedures, Communication & Social Media Tools, Tree City USA, and Priority Based Budgeting.

I would like to thank Alderwoman Stokes and Alderwoman Fairley for the Annual Senior Picnic. It was a huge success and we had a good time with each other. There was food, games, prizes, and free medical delivery for the residents of Vinita Park.

I would also like to thank Our Boys and Girls Club, Public Works, and the North County Cooperative Police Department for volunteering to clean up our community and the Oak Grove Cemetery. The Boys and Girls Club have expanded and now has twelve Football Teams and Cheerleaders. The Cheerleaders did a wonderful job performing cheers at our last Board of Aldermen Meeting.

We have formed a Building Team Committee in the city of Vinita Park. Mr. Don Bono will be the Chairperson of the committee. We are doing our research to find different resources to help finance our New City Hall.

Please come out and vote November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 on Parks and Storm Water Sales Proposition 1. This will not increase the personal property taxes or real estate taxes. Also vote on Vinita Park and Vinita Terrace Consolidation Proposition 2. This will not impact any of the services currently received from the City of Vinita Park.

Dr. K. Llewellyn McGhee, the Chief of Chaplains LTC USA presented the City of Vinita Park with the Spirit of St. Louis Community Unity Leadership Award in appreciation of our efforts to make our communities a better place to live and work.

We will continue to focus on our policing goals for the City of Vinita Park. Policies for community policing is a very important aspect for our North County Cooperative Police Department. This will help build stronger relationships between law enforcement and the community. Here are a few things that the North County Cooperative Police Department has done within the community, The Boys and Girls Club, Citizen's Police Academy, Youth Football, and Basketball League.

We are stronger when we save on resources and work together.

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

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

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# ALDERMEN'S CORNER

## **Hello Vinita Park Ward 1,2,3 residents**

I attended the Missouri Annual Governor's Conference on Economic Development in Kansas City on September 7th through September 9<sup>th</sup> 2016. This conference dealt with how to help local business and Cities. The topics discussed were Make Project Decisions, Training Strategies, What Makes Successful Communities Successful, and Powering the Future. These classes help me to know what works and what doesn't in recruiting new companies to our region, plus helps me to learn from successful projects.

On September 11<sup>th</sup> through September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 I also attended the Annual Missouri Municipal League 2016 Conference at Union Station. The topics discussed were Cultural Diversity in our Municipality, Missouri Open Meetings and Records Act, Cost Savings through Energy Efficiency, and Human Resources: Making the Best Decisions.

### **Happy Halloween**

The City of Vinita Park gave out Trick or Treat candy on Monday, October 31, 2016. We had a wonderful time looking at all of the costumes, parents, grandparents, and along with all of the children. I would like to thank Alderman Gremaud and Alderman Fairley for helping pass out the candy.

**I'm wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!**

### **December 2016**

#### **Happy Holidays Residents**

The City of Vinita Park will be having its Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 9:00a.m. at City Hall. Come enjoy a hot breakfast with Santa and tell him what you want for Christmas.

Let us all continue to keep Alderwoman Stokes in your prayers.

#### **Job Opportunities**

For your information, the YMCA, Macy's, IKEA, and Fed Ex are hiring for holiday help. Please check their websites for more information

#### **Words of Encouragement**

People spend too much time finding other people to blame, instead of finding the good in others. They take too much time and energy finding excuses for not being what they are capable of being and not enough energy putting themselves on the line, growing out of the past, and getting on with their lives.

"Knowledge comes, but Wisdom follows"(J. Michael Stracznski)

**Alderwoman Celeste McGee  
Ward III**

## **Hello Ward II**

These months are quickly passing by. I would like to thank Chief Swope for the wonderful barbeque for the

## **Greetings Neighbors**

School is back in session. Please remember that our children are walking and riding their bikes so please drive with caution.

Finally, we always like to hear from our citizens. If you have a problem or just want to meet leave a message at City Hall.

Enjoy your fall!

"We must live together as brothers or perish together as fools" (Martin Luther King Jr.)

**Alderman, Rich Redel  
Ward I**

Annual Senior Picnic on Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who took part in making the picnic a huge success. I was sorry the weather didn't allow us to have the picnic outside, but we made it by bringing the picnic inside at City Hall. We had a wonderful time. We were so glad to see Alderwoman Stokes with that beautiful smile. God has truly blessed her. Our next Senior Luncheon will be in December. I will call all of the Seniors with more details when the time approaches.

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

Don't forget to come out and vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 6:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.

On the last Tuesday of each month my church St. Louis Bible Way has a food pantry open from 12:00p.m. to 1:15p.m. The address is 6719 Page Ave St. Louis MO, 63114. Come on out and be blessed. We do not deliver food. If this is your first time you will need a photo ID. My church pantry is in our zip code. You must live in 63114.

**Alderwoman Wanda Fairley**  
**Ward II**

# 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.

## 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

# 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

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- November 1-Trash & Recycle Pickup
- November 2- Municipal Court 10:00am St. Ann/Street Sweeping
- November 3- Street Sweeping
- November 4- Yard Waste Pickup
- November 6- Daylight Saving
- November 8- Trash & Recycle Pickup/Election Day
- November 11- Yard Waste Pickup/Veteran's Day
- November 15-Trash & Recycle Pickup
- November 16-Municipal Court 10:00am St. Ann
- November 18-Yard Waste Pickup
- November 21- Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- November 22- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- November 24- Thanksgiving/City Hall Closed
- November 25- Yard Waste Pickup/City Hall Closed
- November 29- Trash & Recycle Pickup