

# 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-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
- 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. Or 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).

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- November 1- Daylight Savings
- November 3- Trash & Recycle
- November 4- Street Sweeping/ Municipal Court 10:00am
- November 5- Street Sweeping
- November 6- Yard Waste Pickup
- November 10- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- November 11- Street Sweeping
- November 12- Street Sweeping
- November 13- Yard Waste Pickup
- November 16- Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- November 17- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- November 18- Street Sweeping/ Municipal Court 10:00am
- November 19- Street Sweeping
- November 20- Yard Waste Pickup
- November 24- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- November 25- Street Sweeping
- November 26- Thanksgiving/City Hall Closed
- November 27- Yard Waste Pickup/ City Hall Closed



### 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  
395-7028

Ora Stokes  
429-6863

#### WARD 3

Celeste McGee  
426-5529

Veronica Conner  
684-9336



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015 VOLUME 2015:10 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

## WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

As community leaders, we are now bracing ourselves to advocate for the changes that are necessary to continue to deliver a high level of quality services for you. Because of the potential reduction in revenue, we are working to find ways to become more efficient and be able to do more with less.

As a valued member of Vinita Park, I know that you want what's best for the community. We know that you have pride in your community, and want it to remain the same. With all of the changes that are being forced upon us, we have a tough road ahead of us.

Now is the time to ask ourselves the following questions; what would our community look like without a responsive police force? What would our community look like without Elected Officials who work on our behalf? Is the county equipped to take over municipalities? Do you want to become a part of Unincorporated St. Louis County? Who benefits from the municipalities becoming unincorporated?

For most of the questions posed, the answers are not positive. If you drive through unincorporated areas of St. Louis County the potholes are easy to spot, the grass is growing out of control, the snow laden streets are present during the winter, and crime seems to be more prevalent because of lack of responsiveness of the county police force.

It's been said that there are strength in

numbers. Maybe that is a good case for standing and fighting together, but I don't feel that's a reason to force consolidation. Let's take North St. Louis for example, it has the numbers but the numbers are in concentrated poverty, unemployment, and unequal health care access. Large numbers alone don't provide an opportunity for success. What is the vision for our area from St. Louis County? Was there ever a vision? Why would there be one now given that this is being forced from the same state that has continuously decided not to invest in our communities.

We have a lot of decisions to make, but I believe if you look at the track record of the state and the county, it's clear that forcing consolidation amongst municipalities into unincorporated areas is not the fate we would want for our community. Long ago municipalities incorporated for a reason, and even today municipalities are still incorporated for a reason. The reason is because the people want the services that only municipalities can provide.

While we work to continue to provide quality services to you, our neighbors help us to continue to provide them. Let's fight off this unwanted mass disincorporation of our communities. Community can't be spelled without unity and we have to be united to survive as a community. With this in mind I would like to ask that you help spread the word that we are here to stay.



On Saturday, November 7th from 10am-12noon there will be a Town Hall meeting about what you need to know about Senate Bill 5, police accreditation and its impact on local municipalities. The meeting will be held at Lucas Crossing Elementary School 7837 Natural Bridge Rd, St. Louis, MO 63121. This meeting is for elected officials as well as community residents. This meeting will be hosted by the 24:1 Mayors/Chairs. Senate Bill 5, passed by the Missouri legislature last year, went into effect August 28th and changes the law for local courts, municipal standards, and reduces the percentage of revenue

that St. Louis County municipalities can receive from traffic tickets from 30% to 12.5%.

The City of Vinita Park will not hold the previously scheduled Town Hall meeting in November. The above meeting will be held in place and the City of Vinita Park Town Hall meeting will be rescheduled for a later date.

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Club on winning first place and receiving a trophy in the 5K run for Health and Wellness. I would like to thank Alderwoman Stokes for taking the seniors apple picking, and

also Alderwoman Fairley for driving.

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

I would like to thank the Police Department and Public Works for doing a wonderful job in our City.

**Alderwoman Wanda Fairley**  
Ward II

**Hello Neighbors.**



With energy prices on the rise, these tips will be much appreciated. Check out these tips and make improvements that will contribute to your energy bottom line and make our planet healthier and cleaner.

**Easy low-cost and no cost ways to save energy**

- Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills and manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently

- Air dry dishes instead of using dishwasher's drying cycle

- Turn things off when you are not in the room such as lights, TVs, entertainment systems, and your computer and monitor.

- Plug home electronics such as TVs and DVD players into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVD players in stand by mode still use several watts of power

- Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120F

- Take short showers instead of baths and use low flow showerheads for additional energy savings

- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

- Air dry clothes

- Check to see if windows and doors are closed when heating or cooling your home

- Drive sensibly aggressive driving such as speeding, and rapid acceleration and braking, wastes fuel.

Enjoy the lovely fall weather!

**Aldermen, Rich Redel**  
Ward I

# YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER



**Hello Vinita Park Residents**

I hope everyone had a safe Halloween. I would like to take this time out and thank the Halloween committee and volunteers for doing a great job in giving out candy to our children, family, and friends on October 31, 2015. We had a wonderful time looking at all of the costumes that came through City Hall once again thank you.

**Save the Dates**

Are you looking for a job? Are you tired of sending resumes left and right, and never getting an answer? If you are dressed in your professional clothes bring resumes and visit our St. Louis Career Fair.

**When:** November 10, 2015

**Where:** Doubletree Hotel St. Louis at Westport 1973

Craigshire Rd, St. Louis, MO 63146

**Time:** 11:00-2:00pm

Here are some of the sponsors of our St. Louis Career Fair; AAA, Whelan Security, Garden View, Medical West, AT&T, ITT, and Macy's.

**Happy Thanksgiving**

Thanksgiving is a day to count one's blessing reconnect with family and friends and to remember what the lord have given you.

Words of Encouragement

"As we approach the holiday's season take time out to be happy, to love, to laugh, and to give to those who are less fortunate".

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

**Alderwoman Celeste McGee**  
Ward III

**Hello Citizens of Vinita Park**



I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. I would like to thank Mayor James McGee, The Board of Aldermen, and the City of Vinita Park for your prayers, the beautiful Peace Lilly, and the Resolution given to myself and my family during the passing of my brother in Memphis, Tennessee. That meant a lot to me, to know others are caring during my loss, May God Bless each of you. My condolence's goes out to Sherry Sulwer in her loss, and also to Audra Spencer in the loss of her brother.

Let us all welcome Mary Alvarado back after spending time in California with her ill father. We are praying for his speedy recovery.

I would like to welcome our newly added officers to our North County Cooperative.

I want to thank all of the families who brought their children out to City Hall during Halloween Night. We gave out candy to everyone. All of the children were a joy to see in their costumes.

To all Seniors, we are now looking forward to Thanksgiving. All of us have some much to be thankful for. So let us all give thanks to the almighty for all of his blessings.

We are blessed to live in a beautiful city. We are also blessed to have a Mayor who cares about all of us, to have a Police Department who keeps us safe every day and night, and Public Works who keep our City clean and beautiful.

**Remember:**

"It isn't your position that makes you happy or unhappy it's your disposition.

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

**Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes,**  
Ward 2

**Hello Ward 2**



I would like to wish you all A Happy Halloween and A Happy Thanksgiving. I would like to thank our Police Department for taking over Charlack Police

Department.

If you know of anyone needing assistance with utility bills please contact Step at (314) 863-0015.

I would like to give my condolence to Mrs. Stokes in the loss of her brother who lived in Memphis, Tennessee.

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

# 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.

**Trees Trimming**

In their continuing effort to provide our community with safe, reliable power, crews working for Ameren Missouri will be in the area for the next several months trimming

trees that could possibly interfere with electric service. So that everyone is aware of the important work that will be performed, all Ameren Missouri customers who receive service from substation 47-Vinita, 382 Allen will receive a letter, even though some residents may be served by underground power lines. We expect crews to work professionally and with minimal distraction to the community. We appreciate your patience.

**Street Sweeper**

The street sweeper will operate from April 1st through December 1st. Please be mindful of the No Parking signs located at the beginning of each street to avoid received a parking citation on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**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

# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

On November 19th the North County Police Cooperative will be holding an orientation night for our new Police Explorers program. All boys and girls ages 14-18 and parents/guardians are invited to join us. This event will be held at City Hall 8374 Midland. For more information please call the Police Department at 314-428-7373.