

CITY HALL NEWS

Library construction will begin at four branches in the spring of 2015. Indian Trails, Jamestown Bluffs, Rock Road and Weber Road will all close for approximately six months during renovations (the Rock Road Branch is expected to be closed for nine months.)

The upgrades taking place at these locations will include the addition of family restrooms, private study rooms, expanded computing areas and quiet, comfortable seating areas.

In the fall of 2015 five more SLCL branches will close for similar upgrades: Oak Bend, Natural Bridge, Prairie Commons, Cliff Cave and Samuel C. Sachs. We expect these locations to be closed approximately six months.

Construction on all of the new and renovated buildings in phase one of the Your Library Renewed campaign is expected to be complete in mid-2016.

The timeline is subject to change based on weather conditions and other factors.

We invite you to follow our progress by visiting www.slcl.org/your-library-renewed. Additional updates will be posted on our Facebook and Twitter pages-so be sure to follow along!

Administrative News – Cross Training

The City of Vinita Park is a very versatile environment that allow several departments to cross-train in different areas to help keep the City running smoothly.

Cross-training ensures productivity and ensures needs in each department will be met.

Cross-training is taking place at City Hall. Ms. Carman Brown, Deputy City Clerk, has been training with Ms. Veronica Scofield, the City's Courts Clerk on Court Administration procedures.

Similarly, Ms. Carman Brown, our Deputy City Clerk, and Ms. Sherry Sulwer, our Finance Officer, will be cross-training with Ms. Melody Korn, our City Clerk. Ms. Melody Korn will be cross-training with Ms. Sherry Sulwer. These procedures are in place to ensure all areas are covered and City Hall can operate in an efficient manner in the event of an absence.

City Spending

The Business Visa Card is being utilized for bill paying because it allows the City to earn money back for the Boys and Girls Club account. The money earned can be used for the incentive program for the children to keep their grades up so that they can be rewarded with a trip to Six Flags.

Pet Tags

Please get your Pet Tag by February 13th,

2015, as a late fee will be incurred after that date.

City Hall Closing

City Hall will be closed on Monday February 16th, 2015 for President's Day. The City Hall will re-open on Tuesday, February 17th, 2015. In addition, the monthly Board Meeting will be held that evening at 6:30pm. All are encouraged to attend.

Candidacy Filing

The closing date for filing the Declaration of Candidacy was January 20th, 2015. Write-In candidates have until March 27th, 2015 to declare their candidacy. We welcome the following candidates for Alderman for the City of Vinita Park.

- **Ward 1** Janet Simms
- **Ward 1** Brian Gremaud
- **Ward 2** Wanda Fairley
- **Ward 3** Veronica Conner
- **Ward 3** Dennis Hayden
- **Ward 3** David Harleman

BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Once you have gathered the supplies for a basic emergency kit, you may want to consider adding the following:

- 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- EFFAK (PDF – 997Kb) developed by operation Hope, FEMA and Citizen Corps to help you organize your information
- Emergency material such as, a first aid book or free information from the 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 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. 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 pencils
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children

Be prepared for an emergency by keeping your gas tank full and if you find yourself stranded, be safe and stay in your car, put on your flashers, call for help and wait until it arrives.

HOME

Your disaster supply kit should contain essential food, water, and supplies for at least three days. Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept. Additionally, you may want to consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks.

Kit Storage Locations

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and vehicles.

VEHICLE

In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car. This kit should include:

- Jumper cables
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First aid kits and necessary medications in case you are away from home for a prolonged time
- Food items containing protein such as nuts and energy bars; canned fruit and portable can opener
- Water for each person and pet in your car
- AM/FM radio to listen to traffic reports and emergency messages
- Cat litter or sand for better tire rotation
- Shovel/Ice scraper
- Warm clothes, gloves, hats, sturdy boots, jackets, and an extra change of clothes
- Blankets or sleeping bags

Also consider

- A fully-charged cell phone and phone charger
- Flares or reflective triangle
- Baby formula and diapers if you have a small child

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 2 Ground-Hog Day
- February 3 – Trash & Recycle Pickup
- February 4 - Municipal Court 10:00am
- February 6 – Yard Waste Pickup
- February 10 – Trash & Recycle Pickup
- February 13 – Pet Tag Registration Deadline
- February 13 – Pavilion/Ball Diamond Registrations Begins
- February 13 - Yard Waste Pickup
- February 14 - Valentine's Day
- February 16 – President's Day- City Hall Closed
- February 17- Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm
- February 17 – Trash & Recycle Pickup
- February 18 Municipal Court 10:00am
- February 20 – Yard Waste Pickup
- February 24 – Trash & Recycle Pickup
- February 27 – 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

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

Dennis Hayden

276-6188



Leading The Way In St. Louis County

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015 VOLUME 2015:02 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

The City of Vinita Park Family would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Hollowell family and the Brown family in the loss of their loved ones.

Alderman Stokes' husband recently suffered a heart attack. Although he is doing better, please keep the Stokes family in your prayers.

I would like to welcome our new residents and business owners who have relocated to the City of Vinita Park.

Our Boys & Girls Club did a tremendous job in helping our neighbor community of Wellston in a cleanup effort to help keep their city clean. I would like to thank Officer Brown and Officer Moonchild who came in on his day off. With a special thanks to Mr. Melvin Wright in helping make the community service a great success and transporting our Boys & Girls Club to Wellston.

A 4-1 vote orchestrated by Council Steve Stenger overturned a 7 year county contract to lease space for a Health Clinic and a Social Service Counseling Center at Page & Ferguson for our residents and especially our senior citizens. The four hundred thousand dollar (\$400,000) contract was moved to make a soccer field in Fenton. This will not help make our community stronger. If you disagree, you can contact County Executive Steve Stenger at (314) 615-7016.

I would like to thank Alderman Redel, Alderman Fairley, Alderman McGee and Alderman Hayden for attending the informational meeting on Saturday, January 31st, 2015. The meeting was very informative about the 1,000 bills filed in Jefferson City. These bills are designed to merge the smaller cities with St. Louis County

which results in stopping the services that Vinita Park provides to our residents. In the meeting we gave an overview of the 24:1 progress, the action that will be taken, an open discussion on how to save our villages and cities. This is very important and we all need to work together to better our communities. I am asking all of our elected officials, businesses and residents to write to their State Representatives and Senators in Jefferson City about how you feel about merging all cities with Saint Louis County. For further information, contact City Hall.

Now is the time to come together. The 24:1 communities that make up the Normandy School Collaborative are facing serious challenges in the coming days and months. Missouri State Legislators are already discussing new laws and policies ranging from transfers to municipal revenue. The outcome of these decisions will have a lasting impact for years to come. We traveled to Jefferson City in opposition to Senate Bill #5 in reference to reforming the Municipal Courts. The City of Vinita Park has adopted a resolution on Municipal Courts Best Practice. It's the city official's responsibility to keep our community safe and enforce the laws that the state passes down.

Beyond Housing is accepting applications. If your home is in need of repairs please contact (314) 918-9918 extension 28.

We ask that you continue to work together to make Vinita Park a strong community by engaging our families and successful children.

James W. McGee
Mayor/City Administrator

YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER



Happy Valentine's Day Wards 1, 2, 3 Residents

I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all the new residents and business owners that have relocated to our community. I have had an opportunity to meet some of you and hope to meet others soon.

I encourage our residents to get involved in our community by participating in our city government through our monthly Board Meetings, the third Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

Job Fair Information

Job Fair Thursday, February 26th, 2015 11:00am- 2:00pm at the DoubleTree Hotel 1973 Craig Shire Road Saint Louis Westport, Missouri 63146 you can also go online to register.

The 3rd Ward Alderwoman Celeste McGee and City of Vinita Park would like to extend our sympathy to Steven and the entire Hollowell family for the loss of their mother Mrs. Mary Hollowell.

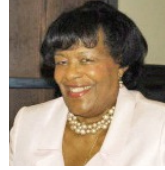
Mary was a longtime resident of Vinita Park who lived on Washington Street. Mary was a school teacher for over 30 years. She was a pillar of the community and she will surely be missed.

In addition, our heart is saddened on the loss of Mrs. Glenda Brown of the Atherton Apartments. Glenda was a longtime resident of Vinita Park. We would like to extend our condolences to David and the entire Brown family. She will surely be missed as well.

Happy Black History Month!

Constantly working hard for progress and stable leadership in our community

Celeste McGee
3rd Ward Alderwoman



Hello Ward II/Seniors

I want to thank God for our lovely and caring people of Vinita Park. My spouse suffered a heart attack on January 15th 2015, and was treated at St. Mary's Hospital. He's home and doing well. I want to thank our Mayor James W. McGee, the Board of Aldermen, Chief Swope, the Police Department, Gerald French and Public Works, for your outpouring of cards, phone calls, text messages and emails. Words alone can never express my many of thanks to all of you for your thoughts and prayers.

Seniors, I hope all are well and staying warm during these cold days. If you need anything give me a call, my phone number is listed on your new 2015 calendar. We look forward to our first luncheon on March 12th, 2015 hope to see you all then. I want each of you to bring in something new you would like to see and do. This year, I want to celebrate birthdays from January thru March.

"Food For Thought"
Real friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel you've done a permanent job

"Leadership with Integrity
Accessible, Committed & Honest"

Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes, Ward 2



HELLO WARD II

Happy New Year to you and your family. We have a lot of wonderful things going on in our community.

If you need help with your utility bills you can call the Community Action Agency at (314) 863-0015 from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday-Friday. To voice your opinion, you need to come to the City

Hall every third Monday at 6:30pm.

Our next event coming up is our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. I will have more information in the upcoming newsletter for March. Don't forget to take your trash can in after the trash services have been rendered, so our city can stay looking beautiful.

I would like to thank the Police Department and Public Works for doing a wonderful job last year. Keep up the good work!

Beyond Housing is accepting home repair applications, if your property is in need of repairs contact (314) 918-9918 extension 28.

Wanda Fairley
Alderwoman, Ward II

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Rate Increase Notice

Effective February 1, 2015

Residential/Commercial Inspection & Occupancy permits

- **One hundred dollars (\$100)** for the initial residential inspection
- **One hundred twenty five dollars (\$125)** for the initial commercial inspection
- **No charge** for the first residential or commercial re-inspection
- **Seventy five dollars (\$75)** for the 2nd re-inspection of the same residential or commercial property, including fire marshal's re-inspection
- **Fifty dollars (\$50)** for fire inspection for each new commercial occupancy inspection
- **Fifty dollars (\$50)** for the occupancy permit sale property
- **Forty dollars (\$40)** for the occupancy permit for residential rental property
- **Fifty dollars (\$50)** for commercial occupancy permit
- **Fifteen dollars (\$15)** for a copy of any type of occupancy permit

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

- **Fifty dollars (\$50)** for an amended copy of any type of occupancy permit

Park Reservations

- **Thirty dollars (\$30)** reservation fee for residents of Vinita Park; plus one hundred dollars (\$100) refundable deposit
- **Seventy five (\$75)** reservation fee for non-residents of Vinita Park; plus one hundred dollars (\$100) refundable deposit

Pet Tags

- **Ten (\$10)**

Occupancy Inspection and Permit Required

It shall be unlawful for any person or family to occupy, or for any owner or agent therefore to permit the occupancy, of any building or dwelling until the inspection is complete

and 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

The street sweeper will operate from April 1st through December 1st.

Trees & Limbs

Please call Ameren UE (1-800-552-7583) if any limbs on your property are on electrical lines.

Trash Containers

Please remember to remove your trash/recycle/yard waste containers from the curb the same day service is rendered to avoid receiving a citation.

In addition, you may contact Republic Services (636-947-5959) to receive a

trash container.

Leaves/Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will be every Friday. Please use the yard waste container or brown yard waste bags. Please do not rake leaves into the streets.

Gerald B. French, Sr.
Public Works Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



The Police Department is looking forward to 2015. Our commitment to maintaining our Community Policing focus will be stronger than ever. As soon as it begins to warm up, officers will be once again performing foot patrols, participating in parades, Easter, July 4th events, Movie Night and many others.

Because of the commitment to the police department by the citizens, Mayor McGee and the Board of Alderman, we are expanding our support to the children in our wonderful city. The Boys & Girls Club, The Basketball League, The Rams

and Cardinals games, the Computer Lab and many other activities will give our kids many many of things to do during the year.

Officer Colten Brown is once again heading the efforts of the Police Department in thier functions. His enthusiasm is not only felt by the kids, but also all of the parents and adults who participate in these programs.

Officer Phillip Quinn had been named Officer of the month for January 2015. Since coming on board in September 2014, Officer Quinn has

been exemplary in his work ethics, meeting and greeting the citizens and business owners. Please say hello to him if you see him out, he is currently assigned to the evening shift.

Thanks to all of those who make this community everything it is. We look forward to serving the citizens to our very best in 2015 and will do everything we can in helping make it another great year.

Col. Tim Swope
Chief of Police
Vinita Park Police Department

CITY HALL NEWS

NOW IS THE TIME TO COME TOGETHER

The 24:1 communities that make up the Normandy Schools Collaborative are facing serious challenges in the coming days and months.

Missouri State Legislators are already discussing new laws and policies ranging from transfers to municipal revenues. The outcome of these decisions will have a lasting impact for years to come.

We urge you to contact and write your state senators and your state representative and voice your opinion.

We must unite and work together to address these issues while continuing to represent and advocate for the people of our communities.

Indian Trails Library

The Saint Louis County Library is excited to be moving forward with the Your Library Renewed campaign. We've put together a

website where you can follow our progress at www.slcl.org/your-library-renewed.

Here you'll find a construction schedule, photos from groundbreaking, a live feed from construction sites, and other information about the projects.

2015 will bring many exciting changes for the County Library. Construction has already begun in South St. Louis County.