

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

City Hall Closed for Holiday

-Memorial Day, May 26, 2014

Public Forum

As the City of Vinita Park prepares to apply for the 2014-2015 Municipal Park Grant, we would like to hear from the residents of Vinita Park. PLEASE come to the public forum and let us hear your great ideas to improve our city parks.

The Public Forum will be held on May 29, 2014 at 6:00 PM. Contact Public Works Director Gerald French if you have any questions; 314-428-7373

Vinita Park Home Repair Program through Beyond Housing

The City of Vinita Park has received grant money to improve the quality of our homes and help bring them up to city code. Repairs which could be performed include tree removal, roof, windows, gutters, driveways, A/C, siding, waterproofing, electrical, plumbing, or flooring. For more information, please contact Nicole Wiseman with Better Family Life at 932-1079.

City-Wide Garage Sale

On Saturday, May 17, we will be having a city-wide garage sale. No garage permit is required

Women Living Whole Monthly Event "You Are a Diamond Part 2"

The Development phase made us exhale. I bet the Discovery and formed phase will make you want to re-examine who you have in your circle and who you need in your circle. When a woman compares herself to a diamond she is saying that she can withstand intense heat and pressure. The things in life that we encounter should not be seen as obstacles but opportunities. Everything we encounter is being used to shape us into who we are today. Come discuss with us this process so that you can walk in your freedom!

Date: May 10, 2014 2 pm to 5 pm

Place: Vinita Park City Hall,
Meeting Room
8374 Midland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63114

"Walking in Financial Freedom"

This is a financial educational explosion! Do you want to take charge of your finances? This meeting will help you start to do just that. You may be thinking I don't know how or how can I get started? Well stop thinking about it and come hear about it; so you can put some steps together to make it happen.

Date: June 14, 2014 2 pm to 5 pm

Place: Vinita Park City Hall,
Meeting Room
8374 Midland Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63114



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 8 – Senior Luncheon, 12:00 Noon, City Hall
- May 10 – Women Living Whole Event, 2 pm – 5 pm, City Hall
- May 11 – Mother's Day
- May 14 – Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room
- May 16 – Yard Waste Pickup
- May 17 – City-Wide Garage Sale
- May 19 – Board of Aldermen Meeting, 6:30 pm, City Hall
- May 26 – Monday, Memorial Day, City Hall Closed
- May 29 – Public Forum, 6:00 PM, City Hall Meeting Room
- May 30 – Yard Waste Pickup
- June 4 – Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room



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

MAY 2014

VOLUME 2014:05

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to congratulate all of the elected officials who won their positions. I ask that you all continue to work hard for our City, our residents, our businesses, and our employees. I want to thank Alderman Wanda Fairley for being the chairperson over the Easter Egg Hunt. It was very successful and it is getting better every year.

I would also like to thank the 31 Vinita Park residents who traveled to Jefferson City on a yellow school bus to support our children. We spoke to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and we let them know they needed to respect our voices and consider the Normandy School District plan. We are asking every tax payer in Vinita Park to join us in traveling to Jefferson City on May 20, 2014 to rally support at the DESE hearing for the Normandy School District. If the Normandy School District closes, our property values will drop. This is the time to stand together and support our children. For more information or to add your name to the list, contact City Hall at 314-428-7373.

CLM located at 8502 Delport Drive is hiring for office, manufacturing, and warehouse positions.

I would like to thank Alderman Hayden and Officer Donaldson for taking our children to the zoo. They all had a great time. We will also be starting a chess club within the Boys & Girls Club soon.

Vinita Park's Boys & Girls Club has teamed up with the Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation. With every event and activity the Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation hosts, our Boys & Girls Club will receive 30 tickets. Some upcoming events include going to see the Wizard of Oz play, the Universoul Circus, Cardinals baseball games, Rams football games, and many more.

We still have boys and girls shoes available in sizes 1, 2, 7, and 8. We also have free office furniture available for our Vinita Park residents. Please call up to City Hall to put your name on the list for the shoes and furniture. We are continuing the free bread on Fridays and Mondays.

We're asking 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 Spring Vinita Park Residents

Job Fair Information

There are two job fairs, one on May 21, 2014 and June 5, 2014. Be sure to dress professionally, bring multiple copies of your resume, and keep an open mind. There may be companies and industries you are unfamiliar with, but take the time to speak with them; it might be your dream job.

St. Louis Job Fair

Wednesday, May 21, 2014
11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Double Tree Hotel St. Louis-Westport
1973 Craigshire Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63146

St. Louis Job Fair

Thursday, June 5, 2014
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Embassy Suite Hotel
2 Convention Center Plaza
St. Charles, MO 63303

Save the Date

Attention all Vinita Park Youth. We will be hosting our Annual Youth Day at Vinita Park right after the 4th of July parade from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. There will be games, prizes, basketball, clown, face painting, pony rides, and refreshments.

Blooming Garden Contest.

Just a reminder: The City of Vinita Park will be having its Annual Blooming Gardens Contest on Saturday, June 21, 2014. The last day to register is Friday, June 20, 2014. Please mark your calendars.

Contest Rules

- The judges will be judging on the neatness, creativity, style, and color combination of your garden.
- Home must be neat and clean of debris.
- Any shape, size, and color of flowers are allowed.
- Home must be free of any pre-existing decorations (Christmas lights, Halloween decorations, etc.)
- For more information, please call City Hall at 314-428-7373.

Remember, Vinita Park is where you live so let's keep it clean.

Encouraging Words

"A good life is when you smile, dream big, laugh a lot, and realize how blessed you are for what you have."
-Unknown

"Don't change so people will like you. Be yourself and the right people will LOVE THE REAL YOU."

-Unknown

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

Celeste McGee
Alderwoman, Ward III



Hello Vinita Park Residents

I hope everyone's year is going good. When it comes to our Boys & Girls Club, parental participation is lacking. Officer Donaldson has done an excellent job of taking our children on various field trips and introducing them to experiences they may not be familiar with. If we had more parental participation, some of these trips could actually become family time. Please consider joining your children on the Boys & Girls Club outings. Your involvement would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much!

Dennis Hayden
Alderman, Ward III



Hello Ward 2

Spring has sprung. It's obvious by all of the beautiful budding trees, sprouting flowers, and green grass everywhere.

So let's get busy with the planting and show off those beautiful gardens. We were blessed with a beautiful Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Sunday. I want to say thanks to Alderman Fairley for the wonderful job she did with the Easter Egg Hunt. Congratulations to all of the children who won bikes and other prizes. We all had fun. Thanks to our wonderful Chief and your entire law enforcement crew for your wonderful service. I also want thank our Public Works Director Gerald French and his team for the fine job they are doing. It takes all of us working together to be successful.

I want to give thanks to all of our lovely seniors who came out to stuff the Easter Eggs for us. We appreciate all of you so much. Our last senior luncheon was May 8, 2014 at Noon at City Hall. The next Senior Luncheon will be held in July. I hope to see all of you there.

Congratulations to Mayor James McGee, Alderwoman Celeste McGee, Alderman Rich Redel, and Tax Collector Jeanette Carridine for winning their elected positions on April 8, 2014. Also, thank you to everyone who voted to re-elect me.

I look forward to another year doing lots of fun activities with our wonderful seniors. I am planning our first bus trip sometime this month and I will give you more information at a later date.

Remember:

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

- **Barbara Johnson**

"Leadership with Integrity – Accessible, Committed and Honest"

Ora Mae Stokes
Alderwoman, Ward II



Hello Ward 2

Hope you all had a happy Easter.

I would like to thank everyone for coming out to our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We all had a wonderful time. I would like to congratulate our 3 bike winners:
- 0-3 Age Group: Malik Moonchild
- 4-7 Age Group: Marissa Halbert
- 8-12: Tyler Glass

The children had a lot of fun.

I would like to thank my committee, the volunteers, the Public Works Department, and the Police Department. I can't forget to thank Mid County Fire Department for providing us with those beautiful bikes.

I would like to congratulate Mayor James McGee, Celeste McGee, Ora Mae Stokes, Richard Redel, and Jeanette Carridine for winning their elected positions.

A few words of wisdom: forgiveness is about empowering yourself rather than empowering your past.
- T. D. Jakes

Thank you.

Wanda Fairley
Alderwoman, Ward II



PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Public Works Week

May 18th – May 24th is National Public Works Week. Please take a moment to thank Mary, Jeff, Anthony, and Lovell for all of their hard work and dedication.

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

Please DO NOT put yard waste in the street or on the sidewalks. Please use the yard waste containers or brown waste bags. Please call Republic Services at 636-947-5959 for any questions or concerns.

RECYCLE-RECYCLE-RECYCLE

We are reminding everyone to please recycle. Contact Public Works at 428-7373 if you do not have a recycle bin

Dead Trees & Limbs

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

Bulk Trash Items

Please contact Republic Services at 636-947-5959 for the removal of any bulk trash items.

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 what 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.

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.

Gerald B. French
Public Works Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Our officers are continually working to keep the community safe. Last week, we made 5 arrests for felony drug offenses. We are making sure word spreads to the drug dealers they are not welcome in Vinita Park.

Public Works has the street sweeper going strong. Most residents are getting the hang of the parking restrictions on Wednesdays and Thursdays for the sweeper. We also ask that everyone park their vehicles on the right hand side of the roadway. Parking on the wrong side of the road can be hazardous for pedestrians and other drivers.

We are having a DWI checkpoint in late May or early June. Keeping impaired drivers off the road makes it safer for law abiding drivers and pedestrians. Find a designated driver if you are consuming alcohol before traveling on the roadway. Getting behind the

wheel when under the influence of drugs is also dangerous and unlawful.

We are switching dispatching services beginning June 1, 2014. The St. Ann Police Department will be providing dispatching for us. If you need the police and it is not an emergency, you can call St. Ann PD Dispatch at 314-427-8000. As always, if you have an emergency, please dial 911.

Lastly, congratulations to Officers Jesse Martin and Jeff Crouch. They have been assigned to the Bureau of Field Operations as Acting Sergeants.

Sincerely,

Col. Tim Swope
Chief of Police
Vinita Park Police Department

