

Whether it is for the street sweeper days or parked in the wrong direction, we have received a good response. Thanks to everyone for helping. We recently held a late night check-point on Page Ave. Unfortunately, 4 DWI arrests and several Driving While

Revoked/Suspended arrests were made. Approximately 40 "No Insurance" tickets were written. Numerous other tickets for various offenses were also issued. Keeping the roadways safe for our citizens is important. We will be scheduling more details in the near future.

**Col. Tim Swope,**  
Chief of Police  
Vinita Park  
Police Department



# VINITA PARK

Leading The Way In St. Louis County

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014 VOLUME 2014:09 NEWS WORTH KNOWING

### WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to thank Alderman Stokes and her committee for the back to school supplies and the National Nite Out. Due to their hard work, the event was a great success. I also want to thank her for her dedication and continued loyalty to the City of Vinita Park.

new city hall building which is financing the project. We are looking at grants and government loans for public buildings, as well as banks. We're asking your continued support on working together to make Vinita Park a stronger community by engaging families and success for our children.

Our Inspectors are going through our city for code enforcement. We had several complaints about residents not keeping up their properties. The inspectors are going to every home notifying residents if their homes are not up to city code. If you need help, we have agencies that you may contact such as Beyond Housing (314) 932-1079; Community Action Agency (314) 863-0015; Rebuilding Together St. Louis (314) 918-9918. If you are in need of additional time for repair, please contact the Public Works Director at (314) 428-7373.

We had a businessman's luncheon with 37 businesses in attendance. We laid out the city plan for the future. We have 3 businesses that will be expanding and we'll be adding 350 jobs. The meeting was very successful. All of the business attendees were pleased in the direction we're moving our city. Thank you to all of the Clergy for attending and for their spiritual guidance.

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



I would like to thank Alderwoman Celeste McGee and Alderwoman Ora Stokes for attending the Governor's Conference on Economical Development. We learned about success with strategies for business attraction, base training strategies, igniting small business growth in our community, what makes a community successful, powering the future, energy production in Missouri, the impact on electric rates, and financing local infrastructure.

We welcome our children back to school. We are asking parents to have the children at school on the first day, every day, and on time.

We're working on the 1st phase of our

## NEWS FROM CITY HALL

### Temporary Employees

Please welcome the 2 temps that have been hired; Carmen Brown as Deputy City Clerk and Melody Korn as City Clerk.

### Utility Bills

The Utility Rebate checks will be ready for pick up on Friday, September 19, 2014. Please bring picture identification and supply us with a telephone number to reach you for emergency purposes.

### 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 Beyond Housing at (314) 932-1079. wait until it arrives.

### Women Living Whole Monthly Event "Walking in Financial Freedom"

**Jeanine Williams**  
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: Second Saturday of every month  
Place: Vinita Park City Hall, Meeting Room  
8374 Midland Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63114

### BASIC SUPPLIES KIT CONTINUATION

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 reference 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

### Kit Storage Locations

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

### 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.

### 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 a 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

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.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 13 - City-wide garage sale
- September 15 - Board of Alderman meeting, 6:30pm, City Hall
- September 16 - Trash and Recycle Pickup
- September 17 - Street Sweeping
- September 17 - Municipal Court, 10:00am, City Hall Court Room
- September 18 - Street Sweeping
- September 19 - Yard Waste Pickup
- September 23 - Trash and Recycle Pickup
- September 24 - Street Sweeping
- September 25 - Street Sweeping
- September 25 - Senior Luncheon
- September 31 - Annual Picnic, 12:00pm
- October 1 - Street Sweeping
- October 1 - Municipal Court, 10:00am, City Hall Court Room
- October 3 - Yard Waste Pickup
- October 7 - Trash & Recycle Pickup
- October 14 - Trash & Recycle Pickup
- October 15 - Municipal Court, 10am, City Hall Court Room
- October 17 - Yard Waste Pickup
- October 20 - Board of Alderman meeting, 6:30pm, City Hall
- October 21 - Trash & Recycle Pickup
- October 28 - Trash & Recycle Pickup
- October 31 - Halloween Event, 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- October 31 - Yard Waste Pickup

# YOUR ALDERMEN'S CORNER

## Happy Labor Day Vinita Park Residents

### Bye, Bye, Summer Time

It's time to go back to school. There is nothing like the first day school, you know it's time to go back to school when you hear a parent singing it's the most wonderful time of the year.

For those of you who are headed back to school this school year, and for those who are already in school.

Here are a few tips to help you.

1. Be safe walking to bus line. Do not talk to stranger report any indents that happen within 48 hours to the police
2. Learn as much as you can while you are still young, since life becomes too busy later.
3. Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.
4. Learn something every day if you pay attention.
5. The more you read, the more you will know, the more you learn, the more places you'll go.  
(Dr. Seuss)

Would you believe fall is just around the corner it's time to do some last minute maintenance on your home, yard, and business? If you think you might have lead in your home.

The benefits of the program that a renter/homeowner could receive (if applicable) are:

- Painting of walls of remediate the pressure of lead;
- Replacement of windows and door jambs;
- Stipends up to \$250.00 if homeowners need to be out of the home while remediation work takes place

If you know of families that may benefit from this program, please contact Brad Waller for more information at 314-615-4428

### Save the date

Bring your "A" game to the 21st Annual Minority Professional Career Fair  
Date: Thursday, October 30, 2014  
Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Address: Harris Stowe State University  
Emerson Performance Center  
3026 Laclede Avenue St. Louis, Mo. 63103  
Attendee Requirements: College degree, Current Resume, and Professional attire.

My heart goes out to the City of Ferguson and the Brown family. Let's keep them in our prayers and all the families all over the world that lost a loved one in a result of a violent crime.

Constantly working for the progress and stable leadership in our community. Have a safe school year!

### Working Hard for stable Leadership and Progress in Our Community.

Alderwoman  
Celeste McGee  
Ward 3



## HELLO WARD II

Please keep cool this month wear loose fit clothing. I would like to thank everyone that came to the National Nite Out in spite of the hot weather. I would like to thank Mrs. Stokes and her committee for doing a wonderful job. Thanks everyone who came and picked up school supplies for their children; remember they are our future. Vinita Park has a lot of things going on this year. Vinita Park will be partnering with Beverly Hills, Velda City, and a couple more municipalities for our citizens academy that will be starting up October 7th, 2014 at St. Vincent Park at 6:00 P.M. all will be welcomed age 18 & up. In my next newsletter, I will give you more details. Don't forget to come up on the third Monday of each month and voice your opinion.

Thank you,

**Wanda Fairley  
Alderwoman, Ward II**



## Hello Vinita Park

All things work together for good when you love God. You all as a city have certainly shown that. I am so elated over the response that has been given during our Back To School and National Nite Out events. Words alone will never be enough to say thanks. Our Back To School book bags and supplies were overwhelming. You, our resident, responded so well, we were able to give away 108 book bags filled with supplies. Through that program, we were able to give 14 of our boys and girls a tablet which will help enhance them in their studies. The 9th – 12th grade students who received the tablets are as fol-

lows: Michael Jefferson, Nylah Hines, Brandon Perkins, Allen Buckner, Victoria Brooks, Dejah Malveaux, AnJonde Selman, Fred Carson, Keiron Jacobs, Cabondia Houston and Shakira Golden.

Our National Nite Out was also over the top. We had great attendance, despite the rain – you were there. Our Alderpersons can't say enough about how you all worked so hard to make sure everything was going well. Our Vinita Park Police Department is like no other. They were prompt and fun and second to none. I, personally, have never witnessed a group work harder than our very own Public Works Department. With Gerald French as the Supervisor, they were ready and willing to do whatever was needed to make everything go smoothly even down to the barbequing.

Our games were competitive and fun. Those who participated are looking forward to next year already!! We had many winners who participated in those games and the names are as follows:\

### Name That Tune

Hosted by Alderwoman Celeste McGee  
Sabrina Mason  
Richard Fairley  
Amel Allen  
Leon Boyd  
Dennis Mosley

### Basketball

Hosted by Lieutenant Clay Farmer  
Jordan Wallace  
Dematyon Mondaine

### Game of Washers

Hosted by Sergeant Richardson  
Taionna Roack  
Brock  
Shiya White  
Alissa Haynes

### Trivia

Hosted by Alderwoman Celeste McGee  
Tiffany Hinchey  
Kaylon Houston

### Jumping Rope

Hosted by Alderman Rich Redel  
Jamishel  
Taniyah Husband  
Kayla

### Newest Resident Award

Hosted by Alderman Dennis Hayden  
Loretta Hines

### Football

Hosted by Chief Tim Swope  
Justin Jance  
Travor Baley

### Hula Hoop

Hosted by Alderwoman Wanda Fairley  
Syla  
Zarila  
Jamiya

### Golf

Hosted by Public Works  
Jeff Carvell  
Zariya  
Lamont  
Anez

A special thanks to Mayor McGee for giving me this heartfelt opportunity to host the entire National Nite Out event. I am forever grateful that he gave me the chance to stand where you stand. I

gave it my best shot and with the Grace of God and the entire Board of Alderman, the Police Department and Public Works Department, we had great success. Thanks again, Mayor, for trusting and believing in us.

Thanks to Cathy, the Popsicle lady, for the lovely different Animal balloons you made for the children's enjoyment. Thanks Bubba and his Band for the great sounds of music you supplied for our listening enjoyment, although I didn't hear my Al Green and Johnny Taylor. Thank you Ms. Shirley Keifer and her son for wrapping and bagging up the hot dogs. Mary Alvarado did an excellent job once again with the Sno-Cone services. Last, but not least, thanks to our very own NBA player of the Washington Wizards, Bradley Beal, for his generous donation of 150 backpacks with the towels to match.

Seniors!!! Our Apple Picking trip was canceled due to the number of people going. We will try to reschedule the trip again in the near future. We have our Annual Picnic on September 31, 2014 starting at 12:00 noon. We hope to see all of you there. Until then, May You All Be Blessed.

PS. Thanks to our wonderful Tax Collector, Jeanette Carridine, for keeping track of all of those winners.

"Leadership with Integrity, Accessible, Committed & Honest".

**Your Alderwoman  
Ora M. Stokes  
Ward 2**



# PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

## Code Enforcement- A Division Of Public Works 2014 Annual Code Enforcement Survey

began on August 9, 2014. We have inspectors walking street by street looking at every home for code compliance. The inspectors are looking at the condition of driveways, walkways, fences, windows, roofs, trims, exteriors walls, gutters, porches, decks, handrails, doors, address numbers, flaking, and peeling paint, and sheds in rear yards, making sure they are in good condition. The inspectors are citing all overgrown vegetation, vacant properties, and those properties that are unfit for occupancy and that should be demolished. An advisory notice has been or will be posted on your door. You have 30-days to work to bring your home into code compliance. Some of the corrections will take longer due to the nature of the violation. The city is willing to work with each property owner as you make repairs to your home. Those failing to make repairs will receive citations/summons to appear in Vinita Park Municipal Court. We are focusing on the health, safety, and welfare of our beautiful community. We need your coopera-

tion as we move forward in renewing our city property values. Property maintenance increases your property value.

### 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. Also, you may contact Republic Services (314-947-5959) to receive a trash container.

### Grass/Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will be EVERY FRIDAY. Please use the yard waste container or brown yard waste bags.

### Tall Grass and Weeds

Failure to keep weeds, high grass, noxious plants, rank weeds, thickets and other vegetation cut and removed a nuisance. All person owning or occupying any lot or tract of land in the City shall keep the weeds, high grass and other vegetation growing on such property cut and removed. Whenever such weeds, high grass or other vegetation shall attain the height of seven (7) inches, it

shall be deemed a public nuisance (Section 215.110).

### Trees & Limbs

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

### Occupancy Inspection and Permit Required

It shall be unlawful for any person or family to occupy or for any owner or agent therefor to permit the occupancy of any building or dwelling, dwelling unit or addition and inspection is complete and an occupancy permit has been issued. The occupancy permit shall not be issued until all violations on the have been brought into compliance.

**Gerald B. French, Sr.  
Public Works Director**

# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The radio dispatch service change-over went perfectly. All 911 calls are routed directly to dispatch and calls for service on the non-emergency 314-427-8000 are being handled as they come in. Officers are being dispatched in a timely manner. Thanks to everyone for their patience in the switch.

We have started a new service for the

citizens of Vinita Park. This service offers free text and email alerts to residents who sign up for the service. The messages can range from critical/emergency information to upcoming municipal events. We hope everyone can sign up for this free service. If you wish to receive text messages, simply text vparkpd to the number 888777, send it and

you will receive a message that you are signed up. If you wish to receive emails also, go to www.nixle.com then enter your information. This service does not replace emergency information services you are already using. It is intended to supplement those services and to provide Vinita Park Parking issues have drastically decreased.