IDENTITY THEFT, IDENTITY THEFT, IDENTITY THEFT!

Seems like we just talked about this, but here we are again approaching the holidays. Here’s the scenario: You’re checking your email and you get a message from a prominent bank stating your account has some discrepancies that need to be addressed immediately. Although you don’t have an account with that bank, you think maybe one of your credit cards was transferred or you forgot to shut an account down; so you open the email and start reading. The email seems legitimate so you start gathering all of your information, including your social security number and your current bank account.

Fast forward to May of next year and you are waiting for you tax return. Instead of getting a much needed check, you get a letter from the IRS stating you filed out two tax forms and they cannot send you your return. Your online identity was stolen back during the holidays and you have no idea how it happened. Theft of tax returns is a multi-billion dollar scam and it is growing every year. Typically, the thieves, who may not even be on U.S. soil, get your information online and fill out a tax return long before you do. They create a new banking account and get the funds from the government electronically deposited. They withdraw all of the funds before anyone knows what has transpired.

If you get an email or phone call that seems odd, perhaps too many questions, or perhaps old information on your financial history, STOP RIGHT THERE! Don’t give any personal information if you are not completely convinced they are reputable. If anyone asks for your SSN or bank account number either online or over the phone, you must be very cautious in releasing that information. Often times the person on the other side is trying to steal your hard earned money. Stop it before it starts!

If you suspect identity theft or have any questions regarding identity theft, please contact the police department. We have to combat this growing crime at every turn. Let’s have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas and not forget about keeping Vinita Park the best city in St. Louis County!

The next Police Explorers meetings will be on December 3rd, 2015 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at St. Ann City Hall located at 10405 St. Charles Rock Road St. Ann, Mo 63074 and also on December 10th, 2015 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at City Hall 8374 Midland. For more information please call the Police Department at 314-428-7373.

Regards, Tim Swope
Chief of Police

PAYMENTS TO CITY HALL

The forms of payments to the City of Vinita Park must be cash, money order or a business check. No personal checks will be accepted for payment. We apologize for any inconvenience.

WARD 1, WARD 2, AND WARD 3

Hello Vinita Park. If you are a resident of the Vinita Park Municipality and have the qualifications to run for office as an Alderman, you must file your candidacy at Vinita Park City Hall on December 15, 2015 at 8:00am till 5:00pm and the closing date will be January 19th, 2016 at 5:00pm. Please see the enclosed Notice of Election for more information.

Code Adoption

Ordinance No. 1247, Adoption of the National Electrical Code/2018, 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 boards will be at the City Hall public 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 dust
- Sanitary gloves, eye protection, and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Matches or other means to turn on utilities
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Sleeping bags or warm blankets for each person
- Extra dry clothes.
- In case you are stranded, keep a kit of nonperishable food
- Water for each person and pet in your car
- AM/FM radio to listen to traffic reports
- Warm clothes, gloves, hats, sturdy shoes
- Lightning protection
- 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: 9777).pdf) 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. Alternatively, in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 18 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use color, scent or color safe with bleaches with added cleanser.
- 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/kits or call (800) 621-FEMA (3362).

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 1- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 2-Municipal Court 10:00am
- December 4-Yard Waste Pickup
- December 8- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 11- Holiday Lighting Contest/Pet Tag Registration Begins/Yard Waste Pickup
- December 12-Breakfast with Santa/Santa Comes To Town
- December 15- Trash & Recycle Pickup/Opening of Filing for April 5, 2016 Municipal Election 8:00am-5:00pm
- December 16- Municipal Court 10:00am
- December 17- Senior Holiday Luncheon
- December 18- Yard Waste Pickup
- December 19-Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:00pm
- December 22- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 25- Christmas Day City Hall Closed
- December 26- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- December 31- New Year’s Eve

I would like to say Happy Holidays to all of our residents. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. There’s something about Thanksgiving that sets the day apart; it brings to mind those things in life that are held closest to the heart. That’s why this day will always bring the warmest thoughts to all of our residents.

Our Annual Breakfast with Santa and Santa Coming to Town will be Saturday December 12, 2015. Breakfast will be served from 9:00am to 11:00am at City Hall and Santa Coming to Town starts at 12:00 noon.

The Vinita Park cheerleading squad won second place in their competition. Vinita Park Police Department started a youth Police Cadet Program on November 19th, 2015. The Vinita Park Police Department plans to organize the cadets into a police program. The football team had a wonderful year. They will have a banquet dinner on December 5th, 2015.

I am asking all of our residents to help take a stand for the City of Vinita Park. This is one of the municipalities filing a lawsuit against Senate Bill 5 (SB5). In an extraordinary act of overt discrimination, the bill states that any City within St. Louis County cannot exceed 12.5% of their annual general operating revenues from minor traffic violations. Local police departments rely on nearly 60%, while 113 counties outside of St. Louis County cannot exceed 20% of their general operation from minor traffic violations, a reduction by 33%. In addition to the drastic reduction St. Louis County executive Steve Stenger wants to introduce an ordinance that states all Municipal Police Departments have to report to the St. Louis County Government. What is the purpose of reporting to St. Louis County on who has worked for the agency when that data is accessible through the Post Commission? Many complaints have been made about municipal redundancy yet this is redundancy on a county government level. How is this fair, equitable or wise use of the taxpayer’s money? It is readily apparent that our County Executives and this Police Department are waiting for agencies to gain State compliance, but rather dictate their own standards, conveniently their own, and have them conducted by their own staff. We do not want a police presence for Vinita Park; we want the very best standards for the Vinita Park Police Department because our residents deserve the very best. I would like to thank all of the elected officials, residents, employees, and businesses who went out to the St. Louis County Council meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, in opposition and standing up against this ordinance that will take away our Police Department.

The City of Vinita Park is working with the Normandy School District. We passed a multi-jurisdictional parental ordinance that help our children improve their attendance, academics, and behavior. I am proud to say...
YOUR ALDERMEN’S CORNER

Happy Holidays

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The City of Vinita Park will be having its Annual Breakfast with Santa program for the Vinita Park residents and children ages 0-12 years old (ONLY). Breakfast will begin promptly from 9:00am to 11:00am on December 12, 2015 at City Hall 8374 Midland Blvd. There will also be a toy and bike give away for Vinita Park resident’s children and grandchil-
dren who live in Vinita Park (ONLY), in order to qualify you must show proof of residency. For more information call City Hall at 314-428-7373.

Following Breakfast with Santa, Santa Coming to Town will begin at 12:00pm noon at 8252 Page Blvd (Yellow Keys parking lot). Santa will be coming through and Vinita Park in a white carriage and horse giving out candy and listening to your request in what you want for Christmas. The Public Workers will be putting out Santa Stop Here signs one week before the event. Please stand by the Santa Stop Here sign.

Lighting Contest

The deadline for our Annual Vinita Park Christmas Light Contest will be December 11th, 2015 at 5:00pm. In order for your home to be judged you must sign up or call City Hall to put your name on the list.

Contest Rules
1. Your home must be neat and clean of debris
2. Your home must be free of preexisting decoration for example:
   a. private study rooms. We have received a $200,000.00 grant for home improvements.
   b. There will be more information regarding this grant in next month’s newsletter.
   c. 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

Hello Ward 2

I hope you and your family had a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

If you’re looking for part-time work, please go online and apply for Christmas Help.

Don’t forget to attend the Board Meeting at City Hall on every third Monday of the month to vote your opinion.

Please be aware of the temperature as Winter begins to approach.

If you are going shopping don’t forget to leave packages in the trunk of your car to prevent a break in. When you leave your home, always keep a light on for safety reasons.

I would like to thank the North County Police Cooperative for doing a wonderful job in our City.

Alderwoman Wanda Fairley
Ward II

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.

Occcupancy Inspection and Permit Required It shall be unlawful for any person or fam-
ily 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 com-
pliance.

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 substations 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 disruption to the community. We appreciate your patience.

Street Sweeper

The street sweeper will operate from April 1st through November 1st. Please be aware that Park signs located at the beginning of each street to avoid re-
ceiving a parking citation on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please complete the survey concerning street sweeping and return to City Hall before December 15, 2015 at 5:00p.m.

Snow-Snow-Snow

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.

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