



# VINITA PARK

## CITIZEN NEWSLETTER

∞ PUBLISHED BY ∞

JANUARY 2016

VOLUME 2016:01

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

### WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

#### CITY HALL

8374 MIDLAND  
(314)428-7373  
FAX: (314)428-7379  
MONDAY – FRIDAY  
8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

#### ELECTED OFFICIALS

##### MAYOR

James W. McGee  
426-5529

##### COLLECTOR

Jeanette Carridine  
428-7373

#### ALDERMEN

##### WARD I

Brian Gremaud  
922-0885

Richard Redel  
368-2329

##### WARD II

Wanda Fairley  
427-8587

Ora Stokes  
429-6863

##### WARD III

Celeste McGee  
426-5529

Veronica Conner  
684-9336

I would like to wish all of Vinita Park residents and employees a Happy New Year for 2016. I would like to thank our Vinita Park businesses for their toy drive and donations for our Annual Christmas Program. I wanted to also take this moment to thank all of the Vinita Park residents for all that you do to help our mission come to life by building a stronger community, engaging families, and successful children. Being a volunteer is so small task in this fast moving time we live in. I know most of you all have taxing day jobs but are still willing and able to give our work your time and attention. Elected Officials, residents, employees, and business all working together is very rewarding and crucial in keeping our City safe, beautiful, and clean.

It has been a remarkable year that has produced so many things for the City of Vinita Park to be proud and thankful for. I hope each of you can take a moment and reflect on the impact that we have had in our community. Working on certification from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, new North County Police Cooperative that patrols Wellston, Vinita Terrace, and Charlack to keep our community safe is just the beginning. We have an Advisory Committee, Police Review Committee, Safety Committee, Cadet Program for our youth, Citizens Police Academy for adults, Senior Citizen Program, Boys and Girls Club to help our children be successful, new Police vehicles, new equipment and new wash station that the EPA requires for Public Works.

I appreciate your feedback from the Advisory Committee, Police Review Committee, Safety Committee, and Management Teams. Our Elected Officials will be taking your feedback and suggestions into consideration on moving our City forward in 2016. Due to our Code Enforcement, Vinita Park has received a \$200,000.00 grant to help improve and repair low income homes. Please call City Hall at 314-428-7373 for further information. Midwest Bank Center is offering affordable Home Improvement loans to make needed repairs. Loans are available up to 100% tax assessed value or loan amounts as low as \$500.00. Please contact Mr. Fennoy at 314-631-5500 for more information.

Vinita Park has jobs for all of our residents who want to work. Our local businesses are expanding which guarantees more jobs for our residents. We had more than 31 businesses attend the Business Man Luncheon.

Vinita Park continues our cooperative efforts to achieve efficiency with our community from new homes, to the 24:1 Cinema, to preventing foreclosures, to college saving accounts for Normandy students, a new bank, to building a second senior housing complex. Vinita Park is looking to take over Vinita Terrace and becoming Vinita Park, and so much more.

All of our elected officials and employees believe in building a stronger community, engaging in families, and success in children.

**James W. McGee**  
City Administrator & Mayor

# ALDERMEN'S CORNER

## Happy New Year

I'm wishing you and your family a Happy New Year.

As Chairperson for Breakfast with Santa and Santa Coming to Town it was a huge success. I would like to thank all of you who came out to help and support this event. The children had a wonderful time at our Annual Breakfast with Santa event. While the children were waiting on Santa to enter into the room they enjoyed a hot breakfast, bacon, eggs, hash browns, donuts, cookies, milk, and orange juice.

We also had our Annual Bike Give Away. There were 25 winners. Here are the winners of our Annual Breakfast with Santa Bike Give Away for December 2015:

Age 0-3

Olivia Allen

Dante Williams

Angel Robinson

Myka Maxx Blassingame

Valerie Allen

Mckenzie Neal

Leya Neal

Age 4-6 winners

Quentin Blassingame

Jordan Sanders

Tynisha Brown

Maya Mayers

Age 7-9 winners

Duvon Owens

Tayanna Owens

Shirmiya Phillips

Ronnette Johnson

Maklia Pryor

Brock Hernandez

Camden Simpson

Age 10-12 winners

Jeremy Phillips

Trevor Daley

Terrence Clark

Rakeel Williams

Brianna Owens

Rakeem Williams

Zackary Boling

Congratulations to all winners.

Following Breakfast with Santa Mayor McGee rang the bell letting the children know that Santa is coming, Santa is coming! It was a joy to see their eyes light up and waiting with anticipation to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas. It brought back so many memories. It was a beautiful day and perfect weather when Santa came to town on a white carriage with a cold black horse one of the biggest horses I had even seen. Santa rode through Vinita Park giving out candy and asking children what they wanted for Christmas. Also Santa's little helper was taking pictures.

I would like to take this time out to thank the hardest working Mayor in North County and Vinita Park, James W. McGee, Chief Tim Swope and the North County Cooperative Police Department, Gerald French, Jeff, Mary, and Public Works, The Board of Aldermen, City Clerk Brent Bury and his staff Sabrina Bozeman, and Veronica Scoffield, residents, family, volunteers, and friends. The success of our City is when we all work together to make our community a better place to live, work, and play. I want to give a special thanks to my Co. Chairperson for working so hard on the Breakfast with Santa Committee, Alderwoman Stokes, Alderwoman Fairley, Captain John Buchannan, Mr. George Buckner, Mrs. Sharon French, Tax Collector Jeanette Blank-Carradine, and our local businesses for your donations. Thanks again for your support and for doing a fantastic job. I'm looking forward to working with all of you next year. May God bless Vinita Park?

## Save This Date

**What:** Job Fair

**When:** January 14th, 2016

**Where:** Doubletree Hotel St. Louis at Westport 1973 Craigshire Rd St. Louis MO 63146

**Time:** 9:00am -12:30pm

## Vinita Park Annual Christmas Lighting Contest winners are:

1<sup>st</sup> Place

Mr. Mrs. Salmir-Penfield

## Hello Ward 2

I would like to say Happy New Year to you all, as we say goodbye to 2015 we can say what a wonderful year it has been. We had a few new businesses move from other cities to our City. We also had several new residents move into our City. Our Police Department has expanded and we are so thankful to have you all come to our great City. We wish you all the best in 2016. We are also here to support you in any way we can. I pray you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a prosperous New Year.

Our Senior Christmas Celebration was so wonderful and filled with lots of food and fun. We celebrated nine birthdays from the months of October through December. We had a great time and everyone enjoyed themselves. I would like to thank Mrs. French for the lovely dish she made and donation to our Senior Luncheon. I also want to thank Alderwoman Wanda Fairley, Alderman Rich Redel, and our City Tax Collector Jeanette Carridine for all your hard work and helping in any way that you could, great job guys. If it's God's will, I look forward to the same another year.

I would like to thank Mayor McGee for doing a wonderful job with keeping our City running smoothly. In spite of all the pitfalls that has come your way you handled them like a champ. There is more to come but we feel confident that you will continue to work hard. You have a wonderful staff the Police Department, Public Works, Administration, Court Staff, and your wonderful Elected Officials that will support you in any way that we can. We will stand by your side so you can walk on by faith. God has the answers. It has been my pleasure to serve by your side this past year and I look forward to do the same in 2016.

I want to thank the Aldermen, Alderwomen, Public Works, City Hall staff, the wonderful North County Cooperative Police Department for your services to myself. You all are the best and may God bless you all even more this 2016 New Year.

Seniors I would like to thank you all for allowing me to serve you all this past year. It has been fun and let's do it again in 2016. Let's have a great year Seniors.

“Leadership with integrity, accessible, committed, and honesty”

**Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes,  
Ward 2**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Mr. and Mrs. Lindsey -1717 Carolyn Park

3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Mr. and Mrs. Carter- 8224 Washington  
Congratulation to all winners. I would like to thank the judges for judging the lighting contest. Mrs. Shirley Keefer and Alderwoman Stokes for driving us around We had a wonderful time looking at all the beautiful homes that were decorated in the City. Thank you.

“Working hard for progress and stable leadership in our community.”

**Alderwoman Celeste McGee**  
**Ward III**

## **Hello Ward II**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed your holidays. I would like to thank everyone for coming out to the Senior Luncheon, Breakfast with Santa, and Santa Coming to Town. Next year we will have some exciting things going on in our city. Please come out and join us then.

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

There will be a Job Fair at Doubletree Hotel 1973 Craigshire Rd St. Louis, MO 63146 January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 10:00am -2:00pm.

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

If you haven't already come out and see our newly remodeled Library.

Anyone needing assistance with their home please apply for the Beyond Housing Grant to fix up your home.

I would like to thank Public Works, North County Cooperative Police Department, and the City Clerk Brent Bury for doing a wonderful job.

I would like to leave you with a quote, “Success occurs when your dreams get bigger than your excuses”.

**Alderwoman Wanda Fairley**  
**Ward II**

## **New Year Wishes to our Neighbors**

As the New Year approaches, you may find yourself surrounded by friends and family who would be ready to be by your side through thick and thin.

May you stand up for your own rights this New Year and also the rights of your fellow human beings, may nothing stop you from championing a cause that you hold close to your hearts.

If you were fortunate enough to have a live Christmas tree, the best way to avoid a mess removing your tree is to place a plastic tree bag (available at hardware stores) underneath the stand when you set the tree up. You can hide it with a tree skirt. Then, when the holidays are done, pull the bag up around the tree, stand, and all, and carry it outside.

Obviously, you will want to remove the stand before recycling the tree. If some of the needles scatter inside, it is better to sweep them up as needles can clog the vacuum cleaners.

Peace, Joy, and Prosperity to you and your family in 2016

**Alderman, Rich Redel**  
**Ward I**

# 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.

## **Street Sweeper**

As a result of the City Wide Survey street sweeping will be the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month. Street sweeper will operate from April 1<sup>st</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Snow-Snow-Snow**

Please be mindful of the NO PARKING areas during snow falls. Doing so will help us to promptly and SAFELY plow & salt our streets.

## **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**

# 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 non-perishable 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

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

- 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 - 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 cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a 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. Alternatively, 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).

## Non-Emergency Dispatch

If there are any non-emergencies which require a police officer, please contact dispatch at 314-427-8000.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 1- New Year's Day/City Hall Closed
- January 5- Trash/Recycle Pickup
- January 6- Municipal Court 10:00am
- January 8- Yard Waste Pickup
- January 12- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- January 15- Yard Waste Pickup
- January 18- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday/City Hall Closed
- January 19- Election Filing Closing/ Board of Aldermen Meeting 6:30pm/Trash & Recycle Pickup
- January 20- Municipal Court 10:00am
- January 22- Yard Waste Pickup
- January 26- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- January 29- Yard Waste Pickup