



VINITA PARK

CITIZEN NEWSLETTER

∞ PUBLISHED BY ∞

JULY 2014

VOLUME 2014:07

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

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

ALDERMAN

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

Dennis Hayden
276-6188

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

Our community makes a big impact when we work together. I would like to thank all the Vinita Park residents for taking time out of their busy schedules to go to Jefferson City in reference to Normandy School District. We made a big impact on keeping Normandy Schools alive. The state board created Normandy School District Collaborative that will operate the schools within the same boundaries of Normandy School District. Effective July 1, 2014 the new entity will be governed by a Joint Executive Governing Board with members appointed by the State Board of Education. For further information, contact or visit the department website at www.dese.mo.gov/normandy. You may call about the transition at 1-855-879-3025 or you may email questions to Normandy@dese.mo.gov.

We have some residents who are still trying to divide our city with a petition requesting an audit that will cost between \$15,000 and \$35,000 for the audit. This is a waste of your taxpayer money. The City of Vinita Park, due to our ten best practices, has an audit every year and you can get a copy at City Hall. The Mayor also mails out a Financial Statement to every resident in Vinita Park when the budget is passed.

I would like to thank County Executive Charlie Dooley for signing an Executive Order to create a diversity program. Currently there are no workforce diversity goals or requirements in place from contractors from St. Louis County. This is an important first step in this effort for St. Louis County to implement its own workforce utilization standards related to contractors that deal with diversity and women participation. This will be one step closer to developing a workforce that is representative of the diversity of the citizens who reside in St. Louis County.

I would like to thank all of our youth that are participating in the Summer Youth Program sponsored by Demetrius Johnson Foundation. They're having a great time with the games, chess, music, tutoring and field trips. We have approximately twenty-five youth attending.

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

ALDERMEN'S CORNER

Happy July 4th Ward 1,2,3 Residents

Vinita Park Annual Busting and Blooming Garden Contest Winners

We would like to congratulate all of our Winners who did an excellent job on getting their yards ready to beautify our city. The yards were full of different shades of busting, popping colors, shapes and sizes.

1st place winner received a \$75.00 gift card
Ms. Mae Daniels

2nd place winner received a \$50.00 gift card
Mrs. Betty Herman

3rd place winner received a \$25.00 gift card
Mr. Rodney and Mr. Michael Brown

St Peters – Extra Help Recruiting Event

Time and Date: July 9, 2014 from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon

Location: St. Peters, Mo 63376
Address: Missouri Career Center, St. Charles County, 212 Tuner Blvd
Contact: Missouri Career Center, St. Charles County
Website: <http://www.extrahelpinc.com>
Telephone: (636) 255-6060

Save This Date

St. Louis Job Fair, Thursday, August 21, 2014 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm.

1 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles MO 63303
The St. Louis Job Fair and Career Fair information for career seekers: Come meet with hiring managers from local, national and Fortune 500 companies for free at our St. Louis Job Fair.

Dress Professional/Bring Multiple Resumes/Keep an Open Mind

Encouraging Word

How often do we hesitate to pursue our dreams, because we feel deficient in talent, knowledge, or experience the perceived roots of success? Chances are that we carry untapped strengths and abilities which, enfolded within the midst of optimism, can conspire to accomplish marvelous things.”-Gina Mohammed, PHD

Be strong and go after your dreams. It can come true. It's there waiting for you.

**Celeste McGee
Alderman, Ward III**

Hello Vinita Park Residents

The 4th of July parade will begin at 10:00 at Best Transportation parking lot, at 8525 Page. As the Chairperson for the Vinita Park Annual 4th of July Parade, I hope everyone will come out and enjoy the fun.

**Dennis Hayden
Alderman, Ward III**

Hello Ward II/Seniors

Try to stay cool. The weather has suddenly changed, so if you need anything such as a fan or cool water, please call and let me or someone know. We, here at City Hall don't want anyone to need something in the line of keeping cool and fail to let us know.

Thanks to all who came out to our Board Meeting Night, June 16, 2014. We are starting our Back to School program now. We want you who can and will drop off your supplies at City Hall any day you desire.

We want to step it up some this year. We all know technology is the key now, in order for our children to compete at the next level. So I would ask for donations of I-Pads to be included in our school supplies this year. These items would be more or less for our high school children in the 9-12 grade.

Senior luncheon will be July 10, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the City Hall.

Our 4th of July celebration starts at 10:00 am at 8525 Page Ave. We will meet up at City Hall to load the bus at 9:00 am. We plan to have our bus decorated and ready for our Seniors to ride in the parade. We would like to know in advance how many of you would like to ride the bus, so call City Hall now and let them know if you want to do so.

Thanks to our Public Works Foreman Jeff Carvel for the fine job you are doing and the entire crew of Public Workers.

Mr. Gerald French, Public Works Supervisor, and all the new summer help, thanks for your fine job you are doing. We welcome our new youth people who are working for our city this summer.

“Leadership with Integrity – Accessible, Committed and Honest”

“Failure in people is caused more by lack of determination, than lack of talent.”

-Unknown

Ora Mae Stokes
Alderwoman, Ward II

Hello Ward II

Summer is here. Make sure to drink plenty of water. I hope everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day. Don't forget if you can't pay your utility bill you can get help at the Community Action Agency. Their phone number is 314-863-0015.

Our 4th of July parade and Youth Day is coming up and I hope you all can attend. Don't forget to decorate your cars and bikes for a prize.

Remember to keep your lawn cut and take your containers in after the trash men and recycle person have passed.

Don't forget to move your car on the right date. We want our city to look beautiful.

Remember this is your community. Don't forget to come up to the meeting third Monday at 6:30 pm to voice your opinion.

Thank you.

Wanda Fairley
Alderwoman, Ward II

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

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. Also, remember yard waste will be picked up weekly beginning August 1, 2014.

RECYCLE-RECYCLE-RECYCLE

We are reminding everyone to please recycle. Contact Republic Services at 636-947-5959 if you need 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

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 services information. Hope to see you on this wonderful, free service!!!

Parking issues have drastically decreased. 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 checkpoint 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.

Movie night is June 27, 2014 at 8:00 pm. Suggestions on movies are very much appreciated!!!

Col. Tim Swope
Chief of Police
Vinita Park Police Department

CITY HALL NEWS

City Hall Closed for Holiday

July 4, Independence Day, City Hall Closed

2nd Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Ages

8-10

11-13

14-15

16-18

The Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament will be held on July 12 & 13 at 10:00 am., to register your age group and for more information please contact Officer Donaldson at 314-604-5239.

July 4th Fireworks Show

A fireworks display will be held at Ritenour High School at 7:30 pm on the Fourth of July. The event starts at 7:30 pm and will include a live DJ. Food and drink will be available for purchase. The fireworks show will begin at 9:20 pm. A flyer with more details will be sent out to the residents at a later date.

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 932-1079.

Build A Kit

A disaster supplies kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Try to assemble your kit in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it may take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off

for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

Maintaining Your Kit

Just as important as putting your supplies together is maintaining them so they are safe to use when needed. Here are some tips to keep your supplies ready and in good condition:

- Keep food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers to protect them from pests and to extend its shelf life.
- Throw out any canned good that becomes swollen, dented or corroded.
- Use foods before they go bad and replace them with fresh supplies.
- Place new items at the back of the storage area and older ones in the front.
- Change stored food and water supplies every six months. Be sure to write the date you store it on all containers.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.

Keep items in airtight plastic bags and put your entire disaster supplies kit in one or two easy-to-carry containers, such as an unused trashcan, camping backpack or duffel bag.

Basic Supplies 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 for 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
- Prescription medications and glasses

More information will be forthcoming

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **June 27 – Yard Waste Pickup**
- **July 2 - Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room**
- **July 4 – Independence Day, City Hall Closed**
- **July 4 – Fourth of July Parade & Annual Youth Day, 10:00 am**
- **4th of July Fireworks Show at Ritenour High School, 9:20 pm**
- **July 16 – Municipal Court, 10L00 am, City Hall Court Room**
- **July 21 – Board of Aldermen Meeting, 6:30 pm, City Hall**
- **July 25 – Yard Waste Pickup (Yard Waste will be every week beginning August 1st)**