



VINITA PARK

CITIZEN NEWSLETTER

∞ PUBLISHED BY ∞

JUNE 2014

VOLUME 2014:06

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

With the Board of Aldermen's approval, we have decided to restore the yard waste pick up to every Friday starting in August 2014. We also signed a contract with St. Louis County to save on fuel purchase.

I want to thank all who traveled to Columbia, Missouri to support the Normandy School District. The outcome was positive for our community. We got the tuition and transfer problems fixed and we also got extra time to get our schools up to par. Under the new Normandy Collaborative School District, the same geographic area will still be served so it is essentially still Normandy School District. Once again, I would like to thank all of the residents who traveled with us and made phone calls to gather support. I want to give a special thanks to Ms. Marsha Pointer and Ms. Janet Simms for forming the Normandy School District Committee.

The Vinita Park Boys & Girls Club has teamed up with the Demetrius Johnson Foundation to offer Summer Camp starting on June 9, 2014 and ending August 5, 2014. It will be held Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served. There will be tutoring classes on various subjects and basketball, football, and baseball camps. The camp offers string instrument lessons (violin, viola, cello, string bass, harp, and guitar). The camp will also engage our youth in the theatrical arts by putting on a play. Our children will also go on several field trips. In order to continue to participate in the Summer Camp, children must maintain good behavior. Please call Officer Donaldson at 314-604-5239 or City Hall at 314-428-7373 to sign your children up for the Summer Camp.

State Parks Youth Corps is another opportunity for our youth. This program will help young Missourians gain valuable work experience by working in our State Parks. They will both gain leadership skills and an appreciation for our environment and an understanding of different "green" concepts. The program lasts from May 1 - December 31, 2014. Interested youth can visit thinkoutside.mo.gov for more information and apply for these summer jobs.

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

Hello Ward 1, 2, 3, Residents

Attention: All Youth the City of Vinita Park is having its Annual Youth Day July 4th 2014 immediately following our Annual 4th of July parade. Come one come all and join the fun and let's have an exciting day in the park with games and prizes/pony rides/clown/face painting/horseshoe/eating popcorn, snow cone, hotdog, hamburger and playing games of three on three basketballs with our police department. Youth Day starts at 11:00 am.

Our Mayor James W. McGee and our Chief of Police will give a word of encouragement.

Garden Contest

Just a reminder: Our Annual Busting and Blooming Vinita Park Garden Contest is Saturday June 21, 2014. The deadline to register is Friday June 20, 2014 at 5:00 pm. Call City Hall for more information.

Job Fair

Thursday June 5, 2014 from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm St. Louis Job Fair and Career Fair at Embassy Suites Hotel 2 Convention Center Plaza St. Charles, MO 63303. Come meet with hiring managers from local, national and Fortune 500 companies. Tips for Success: **Dress Professional/ Bring Multiple Resumes/Keep an Open Mind.**

Encouraging Word

Happiness cannot be travelled to, owned, earned, or worn. It's the spiritual experience of living every minute with Love, Grace, and Gratitude." Dennis Waitley

"Love what you have. Need what you want. Accept what you receive. Give what you can. Always remember what goes around comes around..." unknown

Leadership you can count on!

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

**Celeste McGee
Alderwoman, Ward III**

Working Hard for our Community

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 II and Wonderful Seniors

I want to thank all of the seniors who attended our luncheon on May 8th. We had a great time. I want everyone to understand that we are celebrating birthdays quarterly so every 3 months, we will be celebrating birthdays which occurred in the last 3 months. The next birthday celebration will be held at our July luncheon. July, August, and September birthdays will be celebrated. So seniors, please come out and celebrate your birthday with us.

I would like to thank all of the residents who travelled to Jefferson City and Columbia on behalf of the Normandy School District. I want to give a special thanks to those who have taken a lead role in getting the community involved. It takes a village to raise a child so thanks for joining the village.

I want to thank Nancy Mewes for coming out to our monthly board meeting and expressing your concerns about the issues on your street. It is our greatest intentions to make sure we make this city a more wonderful and beautiful city for all of us to live in. We encourage any and all who have concerns to come out and let us hear from you.

Remember we are your voice.

Food for thought:

The right angle to approach a difficult problem is the “try-angle”.

-Anonymous

“Leadership with Integrity – Accessible, Committed and Honest”

Ora Mae Stokes
Alderwoman, Ward II

Hello Ward II

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. The new dispatch number will be effective 06/02/2014 at 12:00 pm, Noon.

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

CITY HALL NEWS

City Hall Closed for Holiday

July 4, Independence Day, City Hall Closed

Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp

The Vinita Park Boys & Girls Club has teamed up with the Demetrius Johnson Foundation to offer Summer Camp starting on June 9, 2014 and ending August 5, 2014. It will be held Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be served. There will be tutoring classes on various subjects and basketball, football, and baseball camps. The camp offers string instrument lessons (violin, viola, cello, string bass, harp, and guitar). The camp will also engage our youth in the theatrical arts by putting on a play. Our children will also go on several field trips. In order to continue to participate in the Summer Camp, children must maintain good behavior. Please call Officer Donaldson at 314-604-5239 or City Hall at 314-428-7373 to sign your children up for the Summer Camp.

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.

Women Living Whole Monthly Event

“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: Saturday, June 14, 2014 2 pm to 5 pm

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

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 be begin at 9:20 pm. A flyer with more details will be sent out to the residents at a later date.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Vinita Park will hold a public hearing to discuss the allocation of funds from the Community Development Block Grant which will become available after January 1, 2014. To further its commitment to fair and equitable treatment of all citizens, the following policies has been enacted:

A Fair Housing Ordinance prohibiting unlawful discrimination against any person because of race, sex, color, religion, disability, familial status or national origin;

A Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in the admission or access to, or employment in, its federally assisted programs or activities;

A Policy of Equal Opportunity to Participate in Municipal Programs and Services regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, familial status, national origin, or political affiliation;

A requirement for bidding on CDBG activities that promotes employment opportunities created by HUD funding and that these opportunities be afforded to low-income community residents and businesses.

If you would like information regarding the above policies or if you believe you have been unlawfully discriminated against, contact the following municipal official or employee who has been designated to coordinate compliance with the equal opportunity requirements referenced above.

If you are person with a disability or have special needs in order to participate in this public hearing, please contact City Hall no later than 48 hours prior to the date of the hearing.

Lynnette Scott, City Clerk, CMC
8374 Midland Blvd.
Vinita Park, MO 63114
314-428-7373

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **June 4 – Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room**
- **June 13 – Yard Waste Pickup**
- **June 14 – Women Living Whole Event, City Hall Meeting Room, 2 pm – 4 pm**
- **June 15 – Father’s Day**
- **June 16 – Board of Aldermen Meeting, 6:30 pm, City Hall**
- **June 18 - Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room**
- **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, 7:30 pm**