PARKS & RECREATION

Park Parking issues have drastically changed. As the city continues to develop, so does the demand for parking. As a result, the city has made changes to its parking regulations to ensure that there is enough space for businesses and residents alike. The new regulations include a $100 fee for the issuance of a parking permit and a requirement that businesses maintain a minimum of 1 parking space per 4 employees. These changes have been implemented to help reduce the number of parking violations and to ensure that businesses have enough space to operate.

In other news, the City of Vinita Park has teamed up with the St. Louis Moolah Shrine to get free tickets to their Circus events from March 20 to April 19. This is a great opportunity for families to enjoy the circus without breaking the bank.

We have a lot of decisions to make, but I believe if you look at the track record of the state and the county, it’s clear that forcing consolidation amongst municipalities into unincorporated areas is not the fate we would want for our community. Long ago municipalities incorporated for a reason, and even today municipalities are still incorporated for a reason. The reason is because the people want the services that only municipalities can provide.

While we work to continue to provide quality services to you, our neighbors help us to continue to provide them. Let’s fight off this unwanted mass disincorporation of our communities. Community can’t be spelled without unity and we have to be united to survive as a community. With this in mind I would like to ask that you help spread the word that we are here to stay.

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

MAYOR
James W. McGee
426-5529

COLLECTOR
Jeanette Carridine
428-7373

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
WARD 1
Brian Gremaud
922-0865
Richard Redel
368-2329
WARD 2
Wanda Fairley
395-7028
Ora Stokes
429-6863
WARD 3
Celeste McGee
426-5529
Veronica Conner
684-9336

As community leaders, we are now bracing ourselves to advocate for the changes that are necessary to continue to deliver a high level of quality services for you. Because of the potential reduction in revenue, we are working to find ways to become more efficient and be able to do more with less.

As a valued member of Vinita Park, I knew that you wanted what’s best for the community. We know that you have pride in your community, and want it to remain the same. With all of the changes that are being forced upon us, we have a tough road ahead of us.

Now is the time to ask ourselves the following questions: what would our community look like without a responsive police force? What would our community look like without Elected Officials who work on our behalf? Is the county equipped to take over municipalities? Do you want to become a part of Unincorporated St. Louis County? Who benefits from the municipalities becoming unincorporated?

For most of the questions posed, the answers are not positive. If you drive through unincorporated areas of St. Louis County the potholes are easy to spot, the grass is growing out of control, the snow laden streets are present during the winter, and crime seems to be more prevalent because of lack of responsive-ness of the county police force.

It’s been said that there are strength in numbers. Maybe that is a good case for standing and fighting together, but I don’t feel that’s a reason for consolidation.

Let’s take North St. Louis for example, it has the numbers but the numbers are in concentrated poverty, unemployment, and unequal health care access. Large numbers alone don’t provide an opportuni-ty for success. What is the vision for our area from St. Louis County? Was there ever a vision? Why would there be one now given that this is being forced from the same state that has continuously de- nied to invest in our communities.

As a leader, my eyes are set on the future of Vinita Park. The city services to you, our neighbors help us to continue to provide them. Let’s fight off this unwanted mass disincorporation of our communities. Community can’t be spelled without unity and we have to be united to survive as a community. With this in mind I would like to ask that you help spread the word that we are here to stay.

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On Saturday, November 7th from 10am-12noon there will be a Town Hall meeting about what you need to know about Senate Bill 5, police accreditation and its impact on local municipalities. The meeting will be held at Lucas Crossing Elementary School 7837 Natural Bridge Rd, St. Louis, MO 63121. This meeting is for elected officials as well as community residents. This meeting will be hosted by the 24:1 Mayors/Chairs. Senate Bill 5, passed by the Missouri legislature last year, went into effect August 28th and changes the law for local courts, municipal standards, and reduces the percentage of revenue that St. Louis County municipalities can receive from traffic tickets from 30% to 12.5%. The City of Vinita Park will not hold the previously scheduled Town Hall meeting in November. The above meeting will be held in place and the City of Vinita Park Town Hall meeting will be rescheduled for a later date. Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Club on winning first place and receiving a trophy in the 5K run for Health and Wellness. I would like to thank Alderwoman Stokes for taking the seniors apple picking, and also Alderwoman Fairley for driving. 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 Neighbors,

With energy prices on the rise, these tips will be much appreciated. Check out these tips and make improvements that will contribute to your energy bottom line and make your planet healthier and cleaner.

Easy low-cost and no cost ways to save energy
• Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills and manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently
• Air dry clothes
• Air dry dishes instead of using dishwasher's drying cycle
• Turn things off when you are not in the room such as lights, TVs, entertainment systems, and your computer and monitor
• Plug home electronics such as TVs and DVD players into power strips, turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVD players in stand by mode still use several watts of power)
• Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120°F
• Take short showers instead of baths and use low flow showerheads for additional energy savings
• Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

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.

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 substation 47-Vinita, 382 Atien will receive a letter, even though some residents may be served by underground power lines. We expect crews to work professionally and with minimal distraction to the community. We appreciate your patience.

Street Sweeper

The street sweeper will operate from April 1st through December 1st. Please be mindful of the No Parking signs located at the beginning of each street to avoid receiving a parking citation on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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

Police Department News

On November 19th the North County Police Cooperative will be holding an orientation night for our new Police Explorers program. All boys and girls ages 14-18 and parents/guardians are invited to join us. This event will be held at City Hall 6374 Midland. For more information please call the Police Department at 314-428-7373.