



VINITA PARK CITIZEN NEWSLETTER

∞ PUBLISHED BY ∞

AUGUST 2014

VOLUME 2014:08

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

Vinita Park 4th of July parade was a huge success. Our youth decorated their vehicles and won 1st place with the theme “The Youth Is Our Future”. I would like to thank Alderman Dennis Hayden and his committee and Alderwoman Celeste McGee and her committee for our Annual Youth Day which was one of the most successful ever. We had 4 youth receive awards for their school attendance, academics and behaviors. Our four youths are as follows:

1. Lorenzo M. McGary promoted to the 5th grade for the 2014-2015 school year in the Normandy School District.
2. Kadesh Daley promoted to the 7th grade for the 2014-2015 school year in the Normandy School District.
3. Robyn Brockmire promoted to the 3rd grade for the 2014-2015 school year in the Normandy School district.
4. Allen N. Buckner
 - A. Has had a GPA of 4.0 for the past three years and was in the gifted program and the National Honor Society.
 - B. Graduate of Brittany Woods Junior High School and will be attending May Institute Country Day School (MICDS) in Fall 2014-2015.

Our children received numerous awards. School will be starting Monday August 18, 2014. To help our children be successful we have to communicate to our children the value of education for the future hopes and dreams of our children. High expectation and a positive message about school ensure our children to attend school the first day and everyday on time. Creating a learning environment helps develop the child’s responsibility for learning by reading to them or have the child read 20 minutes every day. We will continue to help our youth be successful.

Tuesday July 29, 2014, was the last day of the Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation’s Summer Camp Program. The children had an enjoyable summer at the camp. The staff truly appreciates you entrusting your child with them. Please make sure to contact the City Hall at 314-428-7373 to make sure we have all your contact information, phone number, and email addresses so they can continue to stay in contact with you throughout the year. We will continue to help keep our youth moving toward success. Our next event will be the National Night Out on August 26, 2014 from 6pm-8pm. We would appreciate residents coming out to network with one another.

We are preparing for our annual audit which will be completed by November and will be public information.

For the year 2014-2015 we have a balanced budget with an Operating Reserve of \$562,642.00, a Capital Reserve of \$973,493.00 with a total overall of \$1,536,135.00. A detailed letter will be going out to all the residents.

We ask 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 Vinita Park Ward 1, 2, 3 Residents

Our Annual Youth Day 2014

What a beautiful day and an exciting time we had at our Annual Youth Day. We could not ask for a better day on the day America celebrates its Independence the 4th of July. The weather was just perfect. I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free and I won't forget the men and women who died, who gave that right to me. **GOD BLESS AMERICA. THANK YOU. (LEE GREENWOOD)**

Youth Day was a huge success thanks to our wonderful Mayor James W. McGee, Tax Collector Jeanette Blanks-Carridine, my Co-Chair, Alderwoman Ora Stokes and Alderman Dennis Hayden. A special thanks to Alderwoman Wanda Fairley for doing a wonderful job on moving the food line for our children/A fantastic Chief of Police Tim Swope and the Vinita Park Police Department/Officer Donaldson, our Vinita Park cook/A hard working Director Gerald French and Public Works/Our Senior Citizens Ms. Shirley Keefer/Ms. Georgia McNutt/Ms. Rosie who wrapped the hot dogs and prepared the food and all of our volunteers. We do appreciate all of you and thanks again.

With great leadership in Vinita Park it takes all of us to make every event successful. My heart goes out to the leaders, residents and volunteers who take the time out of their busy schedules to put forth an effort to help our children.

Our Youth are the spirit of Vinita Park with the adventure and awakening they are our future and if we do not do something to help them, then who will. Let's continue to support them in all that they do. We live so that our children will think of fairness, caring, and integrity.

We educate them by showing good leadership, good behavior and habits that will make a strong difference in their lives. Also I would like to take this time out and congratulate the winners of the 2014 Annual Youth Day Games.

Congratulation To all of our Winners

We have 16 winners of Our Annual Youth Day Games

Golf Ball Race

1st place Winner Arturo-----Vinita Park Resident
2nd Place Winner Keshawn-----Vinita Park Resident
3rd Place Winner Destiny-----Vinita Park Resident

Hula Hoop

1st Place Winner Amiya Jones----Vinita Park Resident
2nd Place Winner Kayla Carvel----Vinita Park Resident
3rd Place Winner Erika Butler----Vinita Park Resident

3 Legg Race

1st Place Winner Noah Harleman-Vinita Park Resident
2nd place Winner Zachary Boling-Vinita Park Resident

Horseshoe

1st place Cherish Evans-----Vinita Park Resident

Basketball

1st place Winner Tyree Self-----Vinita Park Resident

Football

1st Place Winner Tytos Self-----Vinita Park Resident
2nd Place Winner Xavier Riley----Vinita Park Resident

Lolly Pop

1st Place Winner Malika Moonchild-----Vinita Park
2nd Place Winner Malik Moonchild-----Vinita Park
3rd Place Winner Jocelyn Garcia--Vinita Park Resident
4th Place Winner Jacqueline Garcia-Vinita Park Resident

I would like to give a special shout out to our rising teens in Vinita Park.

JUST A REMINDER:

St. Louis Job Fair Thursday August 21, 2014 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 2 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, MO. 63303 for career seekers and candidates. Come meet with hiring managers from local, national, and fortune 500 companies for free at our St. Louis Job Fair.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Dress professional-You will be meeting with decision makers face to face so wear a suit and dress for success

- Bring multiple resumes-Update your resume and bring 15+ copies to be able to offer a resume to every manager you speak with
- Keep an open mind-There might be companies and industries you are not familiar with but take the time to speak with them. It might be your dream job.

Working Hard for stable Leadership and Progress in Our Community.

Alderwoman Celeste McGee
Ward 3

HELLO WARD II

Summer is here, please drink plenty of water. I would like to thank everyone for coming out to our 4th parade and youth day. Don't forget to turn in your utility bills so you can get your refund checks. That is a wonderful program for the 65 and older seniors or the disabled. Don't forget to move your car on the right date. Remember starting the first week in August the yard waste will be every Friday. Remember to come up every third Monday to the Board meeting to voice your concerns. This is your city as well.

Thank you
Wanda Fairley Ward II

Hello Vinita Park Residents

I hope you all are enjoying the summer. I would like to thank all of the people that participated in the July 4th parade. This year's car contest winners were as follows:

- 1st Place: Sonya Anderson who lives on Monroe Ave.
- 2nd Place: The Dueker Family who lives on Buchanan Ave.
- 3rd Place: Rose Blassingame who lives on Washington Ave.

Congratulations to the winners! Looking forward to more participation next year.

Our Parade was a success because of the participation of other municipalities, clubs, and individuals. On Behalf of Vinita Park community I would like to thank them all:

- Mid-County Fire Dept.
 - Pine Lawn PD
 - Beverly Hills PD
 - Northwoods PD
 - St. Ann PD
 - Overland PD
 - Gateway Corvette Club
 - Justus Car Club
 - Organized Roots Motorcycle Club
 - Vinita Park Residents
 - The Board of Alderman
 - The Public Works Department
 - The Police Department
- My heartfelt thanks to everyone!

Dennis Hayden
Alderman, Ward III

Hello Ward II/Seniors

Its back to school time again, hope all parents and grandparents have enjoyed the summer with your children and grandchildren.

Now is the time to come to City Hall and register your child or children for our back to school giveaway supplies. You will need to show proof of your Vinita Park address, also you will need to bring each child's grade and gender.

Deadline to register is July 31st 2014, so please register as soon as possible. Giveaway will be Saturday, August 16th 2014 from 10:00am-12 noon at Vinita Park 8374 Midland Blvd. Phone # 314-428-7373. To those who will be donating supplies, we would like for you to do so by Friday August 1st 2014. You can drop them off at City Hall any day you choose from 9:00am-5:00pm.

Thanks seniors for the turnout for our final luncheon for 2014, however we do plan to have our Bar-B-Q on August 14th at 12:00 noon at Vinita Park. I look forward to seeing you all there. I look forward to seeing you all there, so don't you dare miss it.

Oh Yelp!

Come one come all; let's have some fun in the park.

When: August 26th 2014

Where: Vinita Park City Hall, 8374 Midland Blvd.

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

What's Happening, It's our National Night Out. Wow!

Lots of prizes and surprises, food, games and don't forget the best DJ in town, the one and only "Bubba and Band".

You can even dance the night away. You really don't want to miss this, it's going to be lots of fun for all. It's our Family Reunion C.U. you there!

"Leadership with Integrity Accessible, Committed & Honest.

Thought of the day

It isn't hard to make a mountain out of a molehill, just add a little dirt."

Your Alderwoman

Ora M. Stokes

Ward 2

Greetings Vinita Park Residents!

Summer is winding down. The weekly yard waste pickup is a great opportunity to recycle all of your lawn trimmings. Please work with the Public Works department as they continue their street sweeping program to beautify our neighborhood and obey the parking signs.

Congratulation to those participating in the annual Vinita Park 4th of July parade. Next year all cyclist and walkers will meet at St. Rita's Church north side parking lot.

Finally, to all the children of Vinita Park, have a wonderful and safe school year. Study hard, but have fun, and be sure to talk to your Parents. They appreciate hearing about your day.

Rich Redel, Ward One

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Trash Containers

Please remember to remove your trash/recycle/yard waste containers from the curb the **same day** service is rendered to avoid receiving a citation. Also, you may contact Republic Services (314-947-5959) to receive a trash container.

Grass/Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will be **EVERY FRIDAY** beginning Friday, August 1, 2014. Please use the yard waste container or brown yard waste bags.

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. It still **MUST** be completed. Failure to respond to your notice, unfortunately, automatically 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 court charges and fines. So please, respond as soon as possible.

RECYCLE-RECYCLE-RECYCLE

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

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.

Trees & Limbs

Please call Ameren UE (1-800-552-7583) if any limbs on your property are on electrical lines.

Bulk Trash Item

Please Contact Republic Services (314-947-5959) for removal of any bulk trash items.

Gerald B. French, Sr.
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

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.

Col. Tim Swope
Chief of Police
Vinita Park Police Department

CITY HALL NEWS

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 (314) 932-1079.

Women Living Whole Monthly Event **“Walking in Financial Freedom”**

Geraldine Williams

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: Second Saturday of every month

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

BASIC SUPPLIES KIT CONTINUATION

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

- 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- EFFAK](#) (PDF – 997Kb) 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 the 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 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. Or 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 pencils
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for children

Kit Storage Locations

Since you do not know where you will be when an emergency occurs, prepare supplies for home, work and vehicles.

HOME

Your disaster supply kit should contain essential food, water, and supplies for at least three days. Keep this kit in a designated place and have it ready in case you have to leave your home quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept. Additionally, you may want to consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks.

VEHICLE

In case you are stranded, keep a kit of emergency supplies in your car. This kit should include:

- Jumper cables
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- First aid kits and necessary medications in case you are away from home for a prolonged time
- Food items containing protein such as nuts and energy bars; canned fruit and portable can opener
- Water for each person and pet in your car
- AM/FM radio to listen to traffic reports and emergency messages
- Cat litter or sand for better tire rotation
- Shovel/Ice scraper
- Warm clothes, gloves, hats, sturdy boots, jackets, and an extra change of clothes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags

Also consider

- A Fully-charged cell phone and phone charger
- Flares or reflective triangle
- Baby formula and diapers if you have a small child

Be prepared for an emergency by keeping your gas tank full and if you find yourself stranded, be safe and stay in your car, put on your flashers, call for help and wait until it arrives.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **August 5 - Trash and Recycle Pickup**
- **August 6 - Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room**
- **August 6 - Street Sweeping**
- **August 7 - Street Sweeping**
- **August 8 - Yard Waste Pickup**
- **August 12 - Trash and Recycle Pickup**
- **August 13 - Street Sweeping**
- **August 14 - Street Sweeping**
- **August 18 - Board of Aldermen Meeting, 6:30pm, City Hall**
- **August 19 - Trash and Recycle Pickup**
- **August 20 - Municipal Court, 10:00 am, City Hall Court Room**
- **August 20 - Street Sweeping**
- **August 21 - Street Sweeping**
- **August 22 - Yard Waste Pickup**
- **August 26 - Trash and Recycle Pickup**
- **August 26 - National Night Out 6pm-8pm**
- **August 27 - Street Sweeping**
- **August 28 - Street Sweeping**
- **August 29 - Senior Citizen Utility Tax Refund Application Deadline**

The Senior Luncheon for the month of August 2014 has been canceled. The next Luncheon will be in September 2014.