



VINITA PARK CITIZEN NEWSLETTER

∞ PUBLISHED BY ∞

AUGUST 2015

VOLUME 2015:06

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

Our Annual 4th of July Parade and Annual Youth Day was a huge success. We had 3 winners from the vehicle decoration contest and 3 winners from the bicycle contest. The children enjoyed themselves with lots of fun, games, and prizes. I would like to thank Alderman Richard Redel and Alderman Brian Gremaud from Ward I, Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes and Alderwoman Wanda Fairley from Ward II, Alderwoman Celeste McGee, and Alderwoman Veronica Conner from Ward III for doing a fantastic job and working together as a team to make this event successful.

The City of Vinita Park received a statement of support for the National Guard and the Reserves from the Department of Defense. The City of Vinita Park recognizes the National Guard and the Reserves as an essential in strength of our Nation and the well being of our community. The City of Vinita Park has employed 11 Veterans. We have teamed up with the Kaufman Foundation which serves our Veterans and our children. The Kaufman Foundation supports local Veterans and children who are at risk of abuse, poverty, shelter, medical care, and basic needs.

We have maintained a balanced budget in the last five years. Our available funds for the 2015 and 2016 fiscal year is \$3,991,309.00. Our total available amount for Operating Expense is \$3,425,090.00, and this also includes our 2% pay increase for all employees. We have the Operating Reserve budget amount at \$566,214.00, and \$1,212,021.00 for the Capital Reserve funds. The total Capital Expenditures is \$443,765.00, and also the Capital Reserve available amount is \$768,256.00. The Capital Outlay fund has a total of \$80,000.00 available. The overall budgeted City Reserve available is \$1,334,470.00. The Road Fund budget amount is \$219,941.00, and the overall Road Fund Reserve amount that is available is \$39,941.00. The Sewer Lateral available budget amount is \$203,204.00, and the Sewer Lateral repairs available amount is \$10,000.00. The overall budget funds for the Sewer Lateral Reserve is \$283,204.00.

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to get our City financially stable. As the Mayor of the City of Vinita Park, I will continue to make our city financially stable by enforcing a stronger and effective government.

The City of Vinita of Vinita Park is partnering with Normandy Strong and Beyond Housing to present the 24:1 Beyond the Backpack a Back to School Event. This event will be held at Normandy High School, 6701 St. Charles Rock Road, St. Louis, MO 63133 on Saturday August 15, 2015 from 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m. If you need a ride the bus will pick you up at City Hall at 9:00.am. The bus will leave at 9:15a.m. so please be on time. The next pick up will be at 11:00a.m.; 11:45a.m.; and 12:45p.m. We will also do pick up from Hanley Hills City Hall located at 7713 Utica Dr. St. Louis, MO 63133. Pick up time will be at 11:15a.m.; 12:00p.m; and 1:00p.m. Transportation back to Vinita Park City Hall and Hanley Hills City Hall will be at 1:00p.m. The last shuttle bus will leave at 3:00p.m. from Normandy High School. The school year for Normandy School District begins August 17, 2015. Parents please encourage your children to be on time the first day and every day.

North County Cooperative Police has a K-9 Unit donated by the Northwest Chamber of Commerce. On every Thursday and Friday bread, chips, and donuts will be given out at City Hall.

Alderman Redel and Alderman Gremaud will be hosting **National Night Out** on August 25, 2015 from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m at Vinita Park behind City Hall. I would like everyone to come out and enjoy refreshments, prizes, and games.

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

Hello Vinita Park Ward 1,2, and 3 Residents

Our Annual 4th of July Parade/Youth Day/Fireworks Display 2015

What a Beautiful and exciting day we had for our Annual 4th of July Parade/Youth Day/ Fireworks Display 2015. We could not ask for a better day on the day America celebrate it's Independence the 4th of July. The weather was just prefect. I'm so proud to be American, where at least I know I'm free and I won't forget the men and women who died for me. God Bless America. (Lee Greenwood)

Our Annual 4th of July Parade, Youth Day, and Fire Display was a huge success. I would like to thank our wonderful Mayor James W. McGee, Alderwoman Stokes, Alderwoman Fairley, Chief of Police Tim Swope, and the Vinita Park Police Department, Jeff, Mary, and the entire Public Works Department. I would also like to thank Officer Richardson who cooked the hot dogs, Shirley Keefer who prepared the food, and to all of our family, friends, and volunteers. We do appreciate you all 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 there busy schedules to put forth and effort to help our children. I can't say enough about our Boys and Girls Club, Pom Pom Team, and Cheerleaders. Our Cheerleaders performed a routine for the people who were standing there and they did a great job, and I'm so proud of them.

We have 21 winners from our Annual Youth Day Games

Basketball:

- 1st place Lakell Floyd**
- 2nd place Tawan**
- 3rd place Aidine Sheport**

Saks Race:

- 1st place Isabella Harleman**
- 2nd place Caros Conner**
- 3rd place Tanuy Daley**

Hoola Hoop:

- 1st place Zakyah Banks**
- 2nd place Kayla Carval**
- 3rd place Bella Hayes**

Golf Ball:

- 1st place Malika Moonchild**

- 2nd place Malik Moonchild**
- 3rd place Zion Harrell**

Washer:

- 1st place Kiara Richardson**
- 2nd place Jayden McLaren**
- 3rd place Trevon Redmond**

Football:

- 1st place Kaiden Richardson**
- 2nd place Michael Godfrey**
- 3rd place Landon Jones**

Lolly Pop:

- 1st place Esabella Harlenman**
- 2nd place Emani Evera**
- 3rd place Londyn Smith**

The Busting in Blooming Garden Contest winners are:

- 1st place Jim Ulett**
- 2nd place Connie Bono**
- 3rd place Evelyn Daniels**

The Gardening Committee would like to thank all of the participants and once again congratulations to the winners.

Save the Date

St. Louis Job Fair

When: August 11, 2015

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

Time: 11:00am-2:00pm

Encouraging Words

“ You can do anything you set your mind to”
Because the Best is yet to come

Working hard for progress and stable leadership in our community

Celeste McGee

3rd Ward Alderwoman

Hello Ward 1 and Seniors

Our Senior Luncheon for the month of July was a huge success. I would like to thank our guest speaker Chief Tim Swope. We are so blessed to have him as Chief of Police. I'm also thanking Alderwoman Fairley for all of her hard work in assisting with all of our Senior Luncheons. I would also like to thank Jeff from Public Works and the entire staff for all of their hard work while Mr. French was on vacation.

Seniors

Our next Senior Luncheon will be held on September 30th, 2015 at 12:00 noon at Vinita Park. This will be our Annual Picnic, and we would like to make this our last Senior Luncheon for the year. Let's make this a fun event and don't forget to bring your favorite dish. Also please give the caller your birthday. We do not need your age just your birthday month and day.

The City of Vinita Park is very thankful to have Mayor James McGee. He works hard for our City day and night to make sure his decisions are the best for our community, residents, employees, and businesses in our City. I would like for all of us to thank Mayor James McGee for all of his hard work and commitment.

Attention Parents and Grandparents

The City of Vinita Park partnering with Normandy Strong and Beyond Housing presents,

24:1 Beyond the Backpack

A back to school event

Saturday, August 15

**11:00 A.M.-3:00P.M. at Normandy High School
6710 St. Charles Rock Road, St. Louis, Mo 63133**

Free Stuff For The Big Day

Lots of fun with the Bounce House, Bubble Bus, and Elmo and Friends.

School Supplies

Hair Cuts (**Clean Hair Required**)

Kid's Wellness Exams

Eye Screening Exams

Giveaways, Food, Fun, and Entertainment

While Supplies Last

Each student must be present with a parent or guardian to receive a free backpack. If you need a ride the bus will pick you up at the Vinita Park City Hall at 9:00 a.m. The bus will leave at 9:15 a.m. SHARP- BE ON TIME

You must register IN PERSON at the City of Vinita Park City Hall, 8374 Midland Blvd prior to the event.

As our children prepare for the school year let us all pray for their safety, and may God protect them each and every day in school and outside of school. Remember to tell your children you love them.

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

**Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes,
Ward 2**

Hello Ward II

Temperatures are heating up so please remember to stay cool and check on your neighbors.

Don't forget to bring your utility bills to City Hall for the Senior Rebates. You must be at least 65 years old or 62 years old and retired or receiving disability to qualify.

I would like to everyone for joining our Annual 4th of July Parade and Annual Youth Day. I would also like to thank the Police Department and Public Works for doing a wonderful job.

Back to School Event

The City of Vinita Park will be joining Normandy Strong and Beyond Housing.

When: August 15,2015 from 11:00am to 3:00pm

Where: Normandy High School 6701 St. Charles Rock Road, St. Louis MO,63133

For more information contact City Hall at 314-428-7373

If you know of anyone who is between ages of 16-21 and is in need of a high school diploma you can attend Gateway to College at Florissant Valley Community College. You can also earn college credits.

Don't forget about National Night Out next month. For more information contact City Hall.

Alderwoman Wanda Fairley, **Ward II**

Our Annual National Night Out will be on August 25th 2015 from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. There will be plenty of food, fun, and musical talent for the residents of Vinita Park. Please come out and enjoy the good times with your fellow residents.

Resident Reminder

Please be sure to keep your cars locked at all times and all valuable possessions out of sight.

Alderman Brian Gremaud **Ward I**

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

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

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

Trees & Limbs

Due to the weather we are behind schedule in our seasonal tree trimming. Please be patient as we make our way through the city block by block.

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.

4th of July

I want to thank the entire Public Works Department, Jeff, Mary, Anthony, and Tyler for a great job during our Annual 4th Of July Parade. Your hard work and commitment is greatly appreciated.

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.

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. 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 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).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 4 - Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- August 5 - Street Sweeping/ Municipal Court @10:00am
- August 6 - Street Sweeping
- August 7 - Yard Waste Pick-up
- August 11 - Trash & Recycle Pick-up
- August 12 - Street Sweeping
- August 13 - Street Sweeping
- August 14 - Yard Waste Pickup
- August 17 - Board of Aldermen Meeting @6:30 pm
- August 18 - Trash & Recycle Pickup
- August 19 - Street Sweeping/ Municipal Court @10:00am
- August 20 - Street Sweeping
- August 21 - Yard Waste Pick-up
- August 25 - National Night Out 6:00pm-8:00pm/Trash & Recycle Pickup
- August 26 - Street Sweeping
- August 27 - Street Sweeping
- August 28 - Senior Citizen Utility Tax Refund Application Deadline/Yard Waste Pickup