

CITY HALL NEWS

City Hall Closing

City Hall will be closed for the upcoming holiday:
President's Day, February 17, 2014

February Board Meeting

Due to the holiday falling on the third Monday, the monthly board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 6:30 PM.

Indian Trails Library February Events

Saturday, February 8, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Black History Inventions & Discoveries

Join us for an exhibit showcasing African American inventors who left their mark on history. There will be crafts, music, interactive displays and more. All ages.

Tuesday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

Un-Valentine's Day Party

Does the thought of a sickeningly sweet Valentine's Day make your eyes roll? Join us as we deface romance novel covers, make Un-Valentines, play games and more. Ages 12-18. Registration recommended.

Thursday, February 13, 6:30 p.m.

Jazz Art Masterpiece

Join us for an evening of jazz music and painting. Participants will create a bold piece of pop art to take home. Ages 7-11. Registration recommended.

Thursday, February 20, 7:00 p.m.

Discovery Club

There's a whole world of wonder to explore. Through projects, experiments and activities, we will navigate through the sciences to figure out the whys and hows of this big, beautiful universe we live in. Ages 7-11. Registration requested.

Friday, February 21, 10:00 a.m.

Budding Artists

Join us for a brand new preschool art program where the focus is on the process of making art rather than the finished product. Art activities will be open-ended and explorative in nature. Dress to be messy. Ages 3-6. Registration required.

Saturday, February 22, 2:00 p.m.

African Dance

Afriky Lolo, the region's premier West African dance company, returns to St. Louis County Library. Diadie Bathily (pronounced Jah-jee Bah-chilly), the celebrated West African choreographer and artistic and executive director of Afriky Lolo, will lead the dance company in an exciting performance. All ages.

Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18 & 25, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

AARP Tax Aid

Volunteers for AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, organized and supported by both the AARP Foundation and the IRS, will be available to assist taxpayers. Appointments can be made by leaving a message at our call center at 314-525-1660, starting January 20. Other sources for our free tax help are www.aarp.org/taxaide or 1-888-227-7669.

Women Living Whole

Women Living Whole welcomes you to attend our next events:

"Being Seen as a Professional"

This session is centered on interviewing skills and resume writing. Interviewing is a skill that most people are uncomfortable with and we want to provide you with tips that can help ease that anxiety. With a strong resume and great interviewing skills, you will have the opportunity to open new doors. Come to this session and get some advice from an expert in the Human Resources field.

Date: March 8, 2014 2pm to 5pm

Place: Jefferson Elementary School
4315 Cardwell Drive
St. Louis, MO 63121

Carter CME Church

The City of Vinita Park teamed up with Carter CME Church to collect shoes for the Shoeman Water Project. Featured in the above photograph is the 3rd annual collection of donated shoes. The 2013-14 total pounds collected by Vinita Park's Carter CME and numerous other local CME churches is 935 pounds, which was a 50% increase from last year. Carter CME church is blessed to receive

the collecting effort and doubled increase in donated shoes that helps build potable waterwells in Africa. Carter member Ms. Hattie Johnson has successfully coordinated this diligent charitable cause with enthusiasm and persistence in good faith. Ms. Johnson thanks everyone 100% because it took team work to make it happen. Submitted by Gregory Henderson



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 5 – Municipal Court, Council Chambers, 10:00 am
- February 14 – Valentine's Day
- February 14 – Friday, Pet Tag Deadline
- February 14 – Friday, Pavilion/Ball Diamond Registration Begins
- February 17 – Monday, President's Day, City Hall Closed
- February 18 – Tuesday, Board of Aldermen Meeting, City Hall, 6:30 pm
- February 19 – Municipal Court, Council Chambers, 10:00 am
- March 9 – Sunday, Daylight Savings Begins



FEBRUARY 2014

VINITA PARK CITIZEN NEWSLETTER



PUBLISHED BY
VINITA PARK CITY HALL

VOLUME 2014:02

NEWS WORTH KNOWING

WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I would like to thank all of the residents for their support in reaching our goals. I would also like to thank all of the Mayors in the 24:1 Footprint for helping move our cities forward and continuing to work with the Normandy School District. The communities rallying around Normandy School District and strong public education are the keys to a strong community. We have travelled to Jefferson City on several occasions to ask the legislators to be the leading advocates for the \$5 million supplementary fund for the Normandy School District. We met with Governor Nixon and he added \$6 million to his budget for Normandy School District to help finish out the school year. We have a strong plan for the Normandy School District and we are holding our elective officials, community, the school district, our parents, and our children responsible, accountable, and productive to make this a successful ending to the school year. Recently, I spoke to a group of young people at Every Child's Hope school about being responsible for our actions. Every child can be successful with a plan to succeed in life. We awarded three children, Angel Linden, Mykayla Wilkes, and Malachi Vander-Maas with a Student of the Year certificate from Vinita Park. We also donated a down payment for each of their educations.

In the 24:1 Footprint, we have 31% of our families who are functionally homeless and 25% of our children have asthma because of lack of healthcare. We have the second highest rate of unemployment and our average household is \$22,908. We are working on fixing the problems by bringing more businesses to our community. In the last 3 years, we have added over 600 jobs in Vinita Park alone. With the new Liquid Fence Company and the Cheap Company relocating to the City of Vinita Park, 300 more jobs will also be added. The City of Vinita Park was approved for a home improvement grant to help bring our homes up to code. In the Pagedale corner, we are looking to bring a health center and a movie theater to our region. Every child who wants to go to college has the opportunity to do so. Vinita Park has teamed with the Infinite Scholars Scholarship Program. They will be hosting a scholarship fair at the UMSL Millennium Center, 218 One University Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63121, February 22, 2014, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Any student who would like to attend the scholarship fair, please bring a copy of your SAT or ACT score and an official copy of your high school transcripts. Please be on time.

If there are any young people looking for summer employment, contact Six Flags in February for more information about their job fair. They need over 2000 employees for the summer months.

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 and City Administrator

CITY HALL

8374 Midland
(314) 428-7373
Fax (314) 428-7379
Monday-Friday
8:30am to 5:00pm

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

Dennis Hayden
276-6188

ALDERMEN'S CORNER

Happy Valentine's Day Ward 1, 2, 3 Residents
Valentine's Day is Friday, February 14, 2014.

Valentine's Day Poem

As long as you show love, you will receive love. As long as you care and help someone like your neighbors, you will put a smile on their face. As long as you stay true to your friends and companions, you will have the gift of trust. As long as the sun is shining, I will comfort you. As long as you speak of love, love will brighten up your day and love will be in the air. I will love you forever and be here when you need me.

Job Fair Information

A St. Louis Career Fair will be held Tuesday, February 25, 2014 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Westport DoubleTree Hotel, 1973 Craigshire Rd., St. Louis, MO 63146.

Free Income Tax Services

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program is offering free electronic income tax return preparation and tax information for a family with income up to \$58,000. You may get a refund even if you had no taxes withheld! Open every Saturday from 8:30am – 11:30am on these dates: February 1, February 8, February 22, and March 1. Location: Lucas Crossing Elementary School, 7837 Natural Bridge Rd, St. Louis, MO 63121. For more information, you can go to their website at www.stlouistap.org.

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

Celeste McGee
Alderman, Ward III

Happy New Year Ward III and the City of Vinita Park

I hope everyone's year is going great and I wish you the best through the rest of it.

As the chairperson of the Parks Committee, there will be some new changes to the Park Reservation Application which will take effect on the beginning registration day, February 14, 2014.

The first changes are the park reservation fees. They are \$25 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. There is still a requirement of a \$100 deposit in the form of a check or money order which

will be deposited by Vinita Park and refunded to the renter if the park is left clean and damage free. There is a new stipulation added to the contract. Any bounced or bad check will lose the reservation. The reservation will be given to the next person on the list for that date. The last change to the contract is children under the age of 8 require adult supervision.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Dennis Hayden
Alderman, Ward III

Happy New Year to Ward 2 and the Entire City of Vinita Park

We have had a wonderful 2013 and now we look forward to 2014 as a more perfect year. We can all thank God Almighty for all the things he has done for us.

Let us love a little more and be concerned about our fellow man as we start 2014. Though we all have shortcomings in our lives, we should be thankful and caring to one another.

Seniors, I look forward to another year working with each of you. We will have more trips this year than last year, should the Lord permit it to be.

Thanks to all who attended our final luncheon for 2013 which was held on December 20th. I would like for more of you to get involved in helping me plan your entertainment this year. Let me know what you would like to do and I will do my best to get it done.

Stay warm, be safe, love one another, pray for one another, and God will do the rest. Thanks to our wonderful Mayor James McGee for the fine job he did last year. We look forward to many more. In addition, thanks to all City Departments in your respectful places; you all have given us your best and we thank you so much.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Let us consider how we may encourage one another in love and good deeds.

"Leadership with Integrity – Accessible, Committed and Honest"

Ora Mae Stokes
Alderman, Ward II

Hello New Year and Ward II

Winter is here and I hope everyone is keeping warm. Don't forget you can start filing your income taxes or circuit breaker beginning January 27, 2014. If there are any seniors who need assistance, you can call 314-615-7447 for free tax help.

Also, when we are expecting bad weather, please remember to use your driveway so the

Public Works employees can properly plow your street.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 12, 2014 at Charles Forrester Park. I will let you all know about how the first meeting for the Easter Egg Hunt goes at the next board meeting. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the board meeting on February 18, 2014 at 6:30 pm to voice any opinions you may have.

Remember this is your community, so take care of it.

Thank you,
Wanda Fairley
Alderman, Ward II

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

No Parking

We have purchased new 'NO PARKING' signs to be placed throughout the city. These new signs will specify which day and time no parking will be allowed, thus allowing full access to clean each street. Once the 'NO PARKING' signs are in place, there will be a NO TOLERANCE policy for those who do not obey these signs. The NO TOLERANCE policy will apply to current and future 'SNOW PLOWING' signs.

Snow Removal

Please use off-street parking areas during snow removal. This will allow Public Works to better plow the streets of Vinita Park.

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.

Grass/Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will resume in April 2014.

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 control and into the courts which could result in possible fines and/or charges. So please, respond as soon as possible.

Gerald B. French
Public Works Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Greetings

The Police Department continues to work efficiently. The new prisoner transport agreement has been a huge success, freeing up officers to dedicate even more time to patrol. We have

been working with Public Works to get derelict vehicles removed from the roads and yards.

Sincerely,
Chief Tim Swope