**City Hall News**

**Indiant Hills Library**

**Puppet Party with Ms. Jeanie and Friends**
Saturday, January 10, 2015 at 2:00pm

Resident storyteller and puppeteer, Ms. Jeanie, will perform a puppet play with the help of a special guest puppeteer. Stay afterwards to create a puppet of your own to take home.

**Gift of Reading Story Time Wednesday**
January 21, 2015 at 10:30am

Once a month, the Gift of Reading Program provides each preschooler attending story time with a different book to take home and read. Start your personal library. Come see the story time today and celebrate the gift of reading by taking home a kids’ free book! Sponored by the St. Louis County Library Foundation

**LEGO Club**
Saturday, January 25, 2015 at 6:30pm

Calling all LEGO FANATICS! Stop by the library’s LEGO Club to show off your building skills. We provide the building materials, you bring the inspiration. Sponsored by the St. Louis County Library Foundation

**BUTTON DESIGN STUDIO**
Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 6:30pm

Want to make a statement? Join us in the computer lab as we use special software to design, print and make your own buttons. Ages 10-18. Registration required.

**iPad & iPhone Basic I**
Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 2:00pm

Bring your own iPad or iPhone and start making the most of it! This introductory class will take you on a tour of basic features and functions of your iPad or iPhone such as: getting to know your device, how to use a touch screen, connecting to wifi, using the Apple App Store. Devices will NOT be provided. Registration required.

**iPad & iPhone Basic II**
Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 2:00pm

Bring your own iPad or iPhone and start making the most of it! This is the second class of our Intro to iPad & iPhone series. This user-friendly class will explore: using the virtual keyboard, drag and drop processing tips, and internet navigation using Safari. Devices will NOT be provided. Registration required.

**Alderperson (Run for Office) Candidates**
**WARD 1 WARD 2 WARD 3**

Hey Vinita Park residents, you still have time, if you would like to run for office as an Alderperson here in our city, and you have the qualifications, you may drop by the City Hall and declare your candidacy by January 20, 2015.

**Important Dates to Remember**

**January 1 – New Year’s Day-Closed**
**January 2 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day-Closed**
**January 4 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day-Closed**
**January 6 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day-Closed**
**January 10 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day-Closed**
**January 17 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day-Closed**
**January 19 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day-Closed**
**January 20 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day-Closed**
**January 26 – Board of Aldermen Meeting at 6:30pm**
**January 29 – Board of Aldermen Meeting at 6:30pm**
**January 30 – Board of Aldermen Meeting at 6:30pm**
**January 31 – Board of Aldermen Meeting at 6:30pm**

**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 Cardinale
428-7373

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

**WARD 1**
Brian Gremada
922-0885
Richard Redel
368-3239

**WARD 2**
Wanda Fairley
395-7028
Ora Stokes
429-6863

**WARD 3**
Celeste McGee
426-5529
Dennis Hayden
276-6188

**Vinita Park**
Leading The Way In St. Louis County

**Community Newsletter**

**January 2015**

**NEWS WORTH KNOWING**

**WORDS FROM THE MAYOR**

Happy New Year to all of our elected officials, residents, businesses, and employees. I am grateful for each and every one of you. I am here to celebrate all of our accomplishments for December 2014. The City of Vinita Park received from East-West Gateway 2014: OUTSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for Municipal Government Partnerships 24:1 Initiative, THE SELFLESS SERVANT AWARD from the Shepherds Ministries for service to the citizens of St. Louis County, and the LEADERSHIP AWARD for the small cities.

Thanks to Officer Brown, Ms. McInnis, and Ms. Pointer, the Vinita Park Boys and Girls Club served over 30 meals for the homeless on 12-8-2014. We had over 60 seniors; they had a great time, thanks to Alderwoman Mrs. Stokes. Mrs. Fairley and Alderman Redel, a special thanks to Alderwoman Mrs. Stokes for chairing the senior events for 2014.

Thanks to Alderwoman Mrs. McGee and her committee for both events. We had a great time with our children’s breakfast with Santa and Santa coming to town, it was a great success. Special thanks to Alderwoman Mrs. McGee, our businesses, and all who help service our children. We also had our children’s football annual banquet on 12-13-2014. To see Vinita Park children receive their awards and hear about the individual achievements was moving.

Vinita Park is a great place to live and I am so grateful. Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity. It can turn a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Come join Women Living Whole at their Living the Vision workshop. Learn how to create attainable goals that will guide you to create your vision. In this session, participants get a workbook that walks them through creating their goals. Once the goals are created, participants will be encouraged to create a vision board. At the end of the session, the women will be divided up into groups and will put their vision boards together and a vision board so they can visually see what they want to accomplish. This is a session you do not want to miss.

Come join Women Living Whole, Saturday January 3, 2015 at 3:00pm in the Vinita Park City Hall meeting room.

If additional information is needed, please contact Jeanine Williams at 314-359-4200.

We have more challenges ahead in 2015 to build a new city hall and make our city a better place to live, work and build strong Vinita Park, engaging families and successful children.

James W. McGee
Mayor/City Administrator
Happy New Year Residents of Vinita Park

Another year is here. Another year is here to live, to love, to laugh, and gives. Another year is here to banish worry, doubt, and fear. Another year is here to sing a happy song and pray for peace. (William A. Ward)

Breakfast With Santa

Our Annual Breakfast with Santa and Santa Coming to Town was a huge success, thanks to all of you who came out in supporting these great events on a nice wonderful day. We had a nice turn out of children, parents, grandparents, residents and great-grandparents to participate.

The turnout was over whelming. City Hall was filled wall to wall. I cannot tell you how surprised I was to see how many of you to show up to bring love and support. Our children were very happy and filled with joy knowing that Santa is coming and that they were able to tell him what he or she wanted for Christmas.

While the children were waiting with anticipation for Santa, they were served a hot breakfast consisting of cheese, sausage, hash browns, orange juice, donuts and chocolate milk.

Santa Coming to Town

It was a nice day when Santa came to town riding in a nice carriage going down each street in Vinita Park, making sure all the kids on each block received candy and some of the children even got to ask Santa what they wanted for Christmas.

Winners of the Bike Give-Away

I would like to congratulate all our winners in the Bike Give-Away. We had a total of 13 winners, with all of the other children who attended received a special gift from Santa, all children left the City Hall with some kind of gift.

Bike Give-Away

Age 9-3

1. Brielle Hampson age 2yr Vinita Park resident
2. Angel Robinson age 6month Vinita Park resident

Age 4-6

1. Aaron Rogers age 6yr Vinita Park resident
2. Naquisha Blunt age 5yr Vinita Park resident
3. Brianna Owens age 9yr Vinita Park resident
4. Jocelyn Garcia age 9yr Vinita Park resident

Age 7-12

1. Asia Rose White age 10yr Vinita Park resident
2. Nylian McClaren age 12yr Vinita Park resident
3. Brielle Hampson age 2yr Vinita Park resident
4. Jocelyn Garcia age 9yr Vinita Park resident

Hello Ward II/Seniors

“Happy New Year To All”

I hope all have enjoyed the Holidays of Christmas and New Year and are ready to start a new year. 2014 has been an exciting year; we now look forward to the same in 2015.

We want to thank all the new businesses that have moved into our community, as well as new residents. We are so blessed to have you here. Also, we would like to thank our wonderful Mayor McGee for all his services rendered to this great city.

Thanks to Chief Tim Swope and your entire police department, for keeping our city safe. Also thanks to Gerald French and public works for your hard work in keeping our city clean and beautiful.

Thanks to the entire Board of Aldermen for a job well done, on working together for the residents in the City of Vinita. Thanks for your hard work in helping the community.

Christmas Lighting Contest

Winners

1. 1st Place winner Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Sandy Salmieri.
2. 2nd Place winner Nancy Mewes
3. 3rd Place winner Zachary Cavanaugh

As I look back on 2014, I cannot go into 2015 without thanking the people who make our community the place it is today. Outstanding Mayor James W. McGee, the Board of Aldermen, Chief Swope, the police department, Gerald French, the public works department, our business owners, residents, and volunteers.

My heart is saddened to hear of the loss of our former Ward 3 Alderwoman Mrs. Pamela Fuller of the Atherton Apartment. Pamela was a long time resident of Vinita Park. She served as an Alderwoman for 1 term. The 3rd Ward ‘Alderwoman and the City of Vinita Park would like to give our heartfelt condolences to Jessie and the entire Fuller family.

Life is great and life is the best gift from God and one can live only once. Many times, life takes you on a rough journey where you feel others are better off than you. And sometimes life gives you more than you asked for and that is a journey to the seventh heaven. Life is really short and we need to live life to the fullest. Constantly working for progress and stable leadership in our community.

Celeste McGee
3rd Ward Alderwoman

Keep Unauthorized Signs off Roadsides

MoDoT has a mandate to provide quality safe travel conditions for the public and safe working conditions for its employees. It must do whatever it takes to make these conditions a reality. This includes placing restrictions on unauthorized roadside signs.

- Missouri State Statute 227.220 and Missouri Department of Transportation policy prohibit installation or maintenance of non-approved items on state right of way.
- Non-approved advertising signs or display materials include streamer, garage-sale signs, political signs, banners and balloons.
- Installation and maintenance of these items is unsafe for the people doing so. They also can be dangerous distractions to motorists and obstacles to department roadway operations.
- Because safety is Mo DoT’s top priority, the department prohibits installation or maintenance of any non-approved items on state right of way.
- MoDoT staff will remove these items wherever they are found.
- Removed signs will be held at the nearest MoDoT maintenance facility.

Thank you for your cooperation. For more information, call 1888-ASK-MoDoT.

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.

In addition, you may contact Republic Services (836-947-9595) to receive a trash container.

Leaves/Yard Waste

Yard waste pickup will be Friday, Please do not put your waste container or brown yard waste bags. Please do not leave piles into the streets.

Street Sweeper

The street sweeper will operate from April 1st through December 1st.

Snow Removal

As we approach the winter months, please take notice of no parking signs to allow thorough plowing of all streets.

Trees & Limbs

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

Occupancy Inspection and Permit Required

It shall be unlawful for any person or family to occupy, or for any owner or agent therefore to permit the occupancy, of any building or dwelling until the inspection is complete and occupancy permit has been issued.

The occupancy permit shall not be issued until all violations on the property have been brought into compliance.

Gerald F. French, Sr.
Public Works Director

The Police Department is looking forward to a great year. Our commitment to maintaining our Community Policing focus will be stronger than ever. As soon as it begins to warm up, officers will be once again performing foot patrols, participating in parades, Easter and July 4th events, Movie Night and many others.

Because of the commitment to the police department by the citizens, Mayor McGee and the Board of Alderman, we are expanding our support to the children in our wonderful city. The Boys and Girls Club, The Basketball League, The Football League, The Rams and Cardinals games, Computer Labs and many other activities will give our kids many, many things to do during the year.

Col. Tim Swope
Chief of Police
Vinita Park Police Department