



VINITA PARK CITIZEN NEWSLETTER

∞ PUBLISHED BY ∞

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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

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

Veronica Conner
684-9336

I would like to thank Mrs. Stokes for overseeing the City while I was on a well-deserved vacation. I haven't been on a vacation in five years. I also want to thank Mrs. Stokes for our Senior Luncheon; it was a huge success. I would like to thank our Police Department and Chief of Police for making our city one of the safest cities in St. Louis County. I would like to thank the Public Works Department for their hard work in keeping our City clean and beautiful. All of our employees are doing a wonderful job. We are all family.

It has come to my attention that we have a few residents that are trying to divide our City by telling other residents that we are raising taxes. They have also stated that the City is broke. I would like to make one thing clear, taxes has not been increased. However, the property value in Vinita Park has increased. St. Louis County is making an adjustment according to property value. As to our City budget, we have maintained a balanced budget these last five years. We have over \$300,000.00 in Operating Reserve and over \$900,000.00 in Capital Reserve. The City of Vinita Park owes \$80,000.00 to the State of Missouri for work on Page Avenue from 2008 to 2009. We are also paying back a bond issue of \$750,000.00 for different work on Page Avenue. If there are any questions regarding the above statement, I can be contacted at 314-428-7373.

As a City resident, I will provide detailed information. Please do not let a few residents who have personal agendas try to divide us and bring our City down. The City of Vinita Park is strong and our Police Department, Public Works, and Administration will continue to be strong.

We have partnered with Youth Build, Urban League, and Better Family Life to provide programs on job training, work ethics, and mentoring for our youth who live in our community. Vinita Park now has a football team ran by Greg Robinson. For further information contact City Hall. Our Boys and Girls Club will meet on Saturday, June 16, 2015 from 12:00pm to 1:30pm at City Hall. We also teamed up with St. Vincent's Basketball League. The basketball league will start June 9, 2015. All Vinita Park boys and girls please sign up in the Police Department. In addition, on June 27, 2015 there will be a three on three basketball tournament. Please call City Hall for more information.

It is up to us to get our children in schools that they deserve. It's clear that we cannot look to others to help us create the type of schools our children deserve. We have accomplished so much working together in the past few years, but we still have a lot to do. Our school district is facing financial uncertainty. Our children, schools, and community deserves more. They deserve the best that each of us has to offer. The future maybe uncertain but our commitment to the place we call home will not waiver. Now is the time to stand up and join our neighbors, friends, and others to support our children's schools and our community. All of our elected officials and employees believe in building a strong community engaging in families and success in children.

James W. McGee
City Administrator & Mayor

ALDERMEN'S CORNER

Hello Ward 1,2,3 & residents

I would like to take this time out to congratulate all Vinita Park resident graduates and graduate residents thought out North County for completing a very important milestone of their learning journey. You've worked so hard and you did it. "Follow your heart, passion, stay true to yourself, and never follow someone else's path. Your time is limited so don't waste it. Live it to the fullest enjoy life, be happy, and keep dreaming.

Save the Date

Vinita Park Annual Youth Day July 4th, 2015

Attention all youth, the City of Vinita Park will be having its Annual Youth Day right after the 4th of July parade,

Time 11:30am-1:00pm

Where: Behind Vinita Park City Hall.

There will be games, prizes, basketball, a clown, face painting, pony rides, and refreshments

Vinita Park Annual Garden Contest June 20, 2015

Just a reminder: the City of Vinita park will be having it's Busting in Blooming Garden Contest.

Date: Saturday June 20, 2015 please mark your calendar. Last day to register is Friday June 19, 2015

Contest Rules

The Judges will be judging on neatest style, creativity, and color combination.

1. Your home must be neat and clean of debris
 2. Any shape, size, and style of color flowers
 - 3 Rock garden is acceptable
 4. Your home must be free of preexisting decoration for example: NO Christmas, Halloween, Easter, or 4th of July lights or any other decorations will not be judged.
- For more information call City Hall.

Remember Vinita Park is where you live so let's keep it clean.

Encouraging Words

" Education is the key to unlocking the world and a passport to freedom" Oprah Winfrey

Work hard for progress and stable leadership in our Community

Celeste McGee
3rd Ward Alderman

Hello Ward II

I would like to thank Mr. Ray from the Gateway Vascular Access for giving us vital information on our health.

I would like to thank Alderwoman Stokes for all the hard work she does for our Seniors.

If you know of anyone who is between the ages of 18-35 and is in need of assistance or is disable, I know someone I can refer them to. Please call me at 314-395-7028 and leave a voice message and I will get back with you.

Beyond Housing is still accepting applications for home repairs. Please call 314-918-9918. We want our community to look presentable.

Also don't forget about the Boys and Girls Club this summer. Contact City Hall for more information.

Wanda Fairley
Alderwoman, Ward II

Hello Ward II

Happy Father's Day to all Fathers and Grandfathers. I hope you all have a wonderful and blessed day.

Sympathy goes out to Alderwoman Wanda Fairley for the loss of her brother. I would also like to send my condolences to Marie Smith for the loss of her brother. Both men were from Chicago. We are praying for your families in these difficult times.

Let's all welcome our new City Clerk Brent Bury.

Our Senior Luncheon on May 14th was a great success. There were 30 seniors in attendance and we celebrated 7 birthdays. All of them received a gift and birthday cake. Thank you Seniors for your participation. Our guest speaker was our wonderful Chief of Police, Tim Swope. He did a great job and we are so blessed to have such a wonderful person working around the clock to keep us safe. Thanks to Alderwoman Wanda Fairley for a great job in assisting with the Senior Luncheons each month.

Our next Senior Luncheon will be held on July 9th at 12:30pm at City Hall, 8374 Midland. If you have any questions please call 314-428-7373.

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

Alderwoman Ora Mae Stokes,
Ward 2

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Rate Increase Notice Effective February 1, 2015

Residential/Commercial Inspection & Occupancy Permits

- One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for the initial residential inspection
- One Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$125) for the initial commercial Inspection
- No Charge for the first residential or commercial re-inspection
- Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) for the 2nd re-inspection of the same residential or commercial property, including fire marshal's re-inspection
- Fifty Dollars (\$50) for fire inspection for each new commercial occupancy inspection
- Fifty Dollars (\$50) for the occupancy permit sale property
- Forty Dollars (\$40) for the occupancy permit for residential rental property
- Fifty Dollars (\$50) for commercial occupancy permit
- Fifteen Dollars (\$15) for a copy of any type of occupancy permit
- Fifty Dollars (\$50) for an amended copy of any type of occupancy permit

Park Reservations

- Thirty Dollars (\$30) reservation fee for residents of Vinita Park plus one hundred dollars (**\$100**) refundable deposit
- Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) reservation fee for non-residents of Vinita Park plus one hundred dollars (**\$100**) refundable deposit

Pet Tags

- Ten Dollars (\$10)

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 received a parking citation on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Trees & Limbs

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

Trash Containers

Please remember to remove your trash, recycle, and yard waste containers from the curb the same day service is rendered to avoid receiving a citation. In addition, you may contact Republic Services (636-947-5959) to receive a trash container or for any trash service questions.

New Park Equipment

Vinita Park will have a new toddler swing set, football/soccer goals, and bleachers for field and basketball court. All of these items were purchased with a grant from Beyond Housing.

Gerald B. French
Public Works Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Greetings

The Police Department continues to handle complaints regarding speeding cars on Page. We will increase enforcement in the immediate future to try and gain compliance of the speed limit. The safety of other drivers and pedestrians is of the utmost importance.

Our neighbor Vinita Terrace has accepted our proposal to provide police services for them. We will begin July 1st. Everyone is very excited to begin this new partnership.

As the weather warms up, please be aware of keeping your vehicles locked when unattended. Cars and stolen property from cars are often crimes of opportunity. Simple measures can help dissuade thieves from making you a victim.

Watch for officers on foot patrol. They are hitting a few streets a day. Say hello and get to know them!

**Sincerely,
Chief Tim Swope**

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

- June 2- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- June 3- Street Sweeping/Municipal Court, 10:00am
- June 4- Street Sweeping
- June 5- Yard Waste Pickup
- June 9- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- June 10- Street Sweeping
- June 11- Street Sweeping
- June 12- Yard Waste Pickup
- June 14- Flag Day
- June 15-Board of Aldermen Meeting, 6:30pm
- June 16- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- June 17-Street Sweeping/Municipal Court, 10:00am
- June 18- Street Sweeping
- June 19- Yard Waste Pickup
- June 21- Father's Day
- June 23- Trash & Recycle Pickup
- June 24- Street Sweeping
- June 25- Street Sweeping
- June 26- Yard Waste Pickup
- June 30- Trash & Recycle Pickup